

January 1985

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

M A G A Z I N E

SOUTHEAST ASIA POW/MIA COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

Suspended from a yellow, green, and red striped ribbon, a 3-inch medallion reminds the wives, parents, and children of the nearly 2,500 Americans still missing in Southeast Asia that "You Are Not Forgotten."





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- TO INSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

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COVER-A medal authorized by Congress has been struck and awarded next-of-kin of POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War. The cover story, "You Are Not Forgotten," by Joan M. Maiman starting on page 21 tells the story of the commemorative medal, some of the recent awards ceremonies and the artist who designed it.

Hands Off VA Medical Care!



By Billy Ray Cameron
VFW Commander-in-Chief

A DIRECT THREAT to VA veterans' hospital care was contained in what may have been a trial balloon floated on Nov. 20 in newspaper reports that the Reagan Administration is considering outrageous proposals to cut veterans' health benefits as an economy measure.

Under fire is eligibility of veterans 65 and older for medical care regardless of financial need if space is available in VA hospitals and nursing homes. Congress enacted this provision in 1970.

According to the published accounts, this latest attack comes from anonymous White House policy analysts, the Office of Management and Budget and the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, better known as the Grace Commission.

They are studying proposals to charge veterans at least a nominal amount for medical services, make benefits contingent on financial need or cut benefits for veterans seeking treatment for illnesses unrelated to their military service.

Others include reliance on private

contractors for support services, perhaps even health care, at VA facilities, a cut back on plans for new nursing homes and hospitals or cancellation of planned expenditures by the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery.

You may be certain that we in the VFW will fight such moves with all the vigor at our command. Over the years, we have fought and defeated similar attacks that would jeopardize the delivery of first-class medical care to which the nation's veterans are entitled and which the American people, through Congress, agree they deserve.

It is heartening to note that we are not alone in this fight.

The very day the newspaper stories appeared, Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, who chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and Sen. Alan Cranston, ranking minority member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, roundly attacked these proposals.

"Forget it; there is no chance," Rep. Montgomery asserted. "The Veterans Affairs Committee will never accept it; the Congress will never accept it, and the American people will never accept it. It's misguided and it's wrong."

"Just over five months ago, we commemorated the 40th anniversary of D-Day, honoring the thousands of brave individuals who stormed those beaches in France. Now, just as they are turning 65 and are eligible for the health care this nation promised, the Administration is suggesting that we tell those same individuals, 'Sorry, pal. We appreciate what you did, but we're going to renege on our part of the commitment.'"

Montgomery said, and we in the

VFW wholeheartedly agree, the nation "owes a debt to all veterans who served honorably, regardless of whether or not they sustained injuries or disabilities as a result of that service."

Another point he made is that if VA health care is limited to veterans disabled in the service, the VA hospital system will shut down because veterans being treated for service-connected disabilities and conditions comprise approximately only one-third of the patients.

Further, some veterans could no longer afford necessary treatment.

But, he asked, and any thinking person would admit the logic of his question, where would the savings be?

For, as Rep. Montgomery said, "Medicare costs would rise dramatically due to increased use of private sector health care facilities by veterans over the age of 65."

"Both the Committee and the House recognize that the VA must share the responsibility of trimming the deficit, and the record shows that we have accepted cuts, especially over the last four years," said Montgomery. "But we are going to protect our veterans' health care program!"

"If they're looking for ways to cut costs, this isn't the way. By denying health care to non-service-connected veterans, especially those who have depended on that health care being available at age 65, we would be breaking a long-standing promise and undermining the faith of all who served. We simply must not turn our backs on them."

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VETSGRAM

LEGISLATIVE

98th Congress, Second Session: The second session of the 98th Congress convened on Jan. 23, 1984, and adjourned the following Oct. 12. All measures introduced during the 98th Congress which were not enacted into law died when the 98th Congress adjourned.

The 131 days the Senate was in session consumed 940 hours and 28 minutes, while the House's 120 days took up 852 hours and 59 minutes. The Congressional Record contained 14,650 pages of Senate proceedings and 12,293 of the House's activities. Extension of remarks—material the Representatives or Senators wanted added to what they said on the floor—took up 4,580 pages.

Bills enacted into law totalled 1,462—726 in the Senate, 737 in the House. Bills introduced in the Senate numbered 897 and 1,862 in the House. President Reagan vetoed 17 bills, eight passed by the Senate and nine by the House, with one from each chamber overridden.

The first session of the 99th Congress convened on Thursday, Jan. 3, 1985. The Senate is composed of 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats. The House of Representatives has 253 Democrats and 182 Republicans.

* * *

Armed Forces Survivor Benefit Plan: Under current law, when a widow or widower becomes eligible for Social Security at age 62, the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity is reduced by the Social Security benefit to which the survivor is entitled based on his or her military service. Regardless of the amount of the Social Security benefit attributable to that military service, however, the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity may be reduced by no more than 40%. A provision of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1985, supported by the VFW, eliminates the Social Security offset against the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity in the case of a survivor who is receiving Social Security benefits based on his or her own earnings, rather than the retiree's Social Security benefits. This change in law does not become effective until Sept. 30, 1985, and fulfills in part current VFW Resolution No. 610.

* * *

Taxation of Social Security Benefits: Although neither Social Security benefits nor federal income tax are veterans' issues in themselves, the following information is furnished for the guidance of retirees:

Starting in 1984, if you have substantial income in addition to Social Security benefits, up to half of

your annual Social Security benefits may be subject to federal income tax. The amount of your benefits subject to tax will be the smaller of one half of your Social Security benefits, or one half of the amount by which your adjusted gross income, plus tax-exempt interest, plus one half of your Social Security benefits exceed the following base amounts: \$25,000 if you file as a single taxpayer; \$32,000 if you are married and you file a joint return; or \$0 if you are married, live with your spouse at any time during the year and file separate returns. In figuring total Social Security benefits, you must include all benefits you receive. This includes any Medicare medical insurance premiums that have been deducted from your check, any overpayments to the extent they were not repaid in the year you get them, any lump-sum payment of monthly benefits you get, and any worker's compensation benefits which cause a reduction in your Social Security disability check.

* * *

Mileage Deduction for Volunteer Work: One of the provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, Public Law 98-368, increases from nine cents a mile to 12 cents a mile the tax deduction for use of a passenger automobile for charitable volunteer work for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1984. For computing deductions for 1984, the nine cents a mile rate will apply as in 1983.

SECURITY

Procurement's Other Side: VFW Resolution 436 signalled Defense Department VFW concern over waste in Pentagon procurement. High prices make headlines, but don't tell whole story. Air Force acquisition is as complex as the service itself. It supports 134 bases, 139 Air National Guard units and wide variety of installations, uses 2 million different parts for equipment and processed in 1983 4.5 million procurement orders, plus parts for 1,000 new aircraft Air Force bought.

In 1983, top level AF group was established to examine each step of process. Competitive bidding is one result. In less than a year, 60,000 different items have been studied, 12,000 sent back for other bids. Another, price comparisons are to be given for each part before negotiations begin nor will there be any more "average" prices, but the actual price. Cost consciousness raising and incentives to support it among AF people have been instituted. Result? A saving of \$2.4 million in two years. Competitive bidding has saved \$7.2 million in 1983. Shoddy equipment? Two suppliers have been accused of making faulty products; a fourth of AF and Navy

Sidewinder and Sparrow missiles had defective steering fins, but 80% can be repaired. Hope is danger to defense is minimal.

* * *

Nicaragua Not Another Cuba: Military analysts were not taken in by flap over alleged MIG-21 shipment to Nicaragua. For one thing, secret unloading is done at port of El Bluff, not exposed Corinto. Pentagon was not especially concerned. Triggering alarm gave Communist Nicaraguans another propaganda opportunity; U.S. recon flights seen as intimidation. Two weeks earlier, overlooked armored vehicles, helicopter gunships from USSR arrived at El Bluff. Now Nicaraguans can wage guerrilla or conventional warfare. U.S. seems to have drawn line against MIGs, but failed to see offensive capability can be gained in other ways.

SERVICE

More Land for LA Cemetery: VA's Los Angeles National Cemetery will reopen for burials late this year through an internal transfer of 20 acres, VA Administrator Harry N. Walters has announced.

Land will come from VA's Wadsworth Medical Center, separated from the cemetery by Sepulveda Boulevard in West Los Angeles.

Additional acreage will provide approximately 20,000 gravesites for casketed remains in the cemetery. It was closed to new interments in 1976.

"The interments of veterans and their eligible dependents are expected to begin following land surveys and site development," Walters said.

The new cemetery land was made available after a property review showed the parcel's size to be more than the medical center needed. Cemetery and medical center are located near the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and the San Diego Freeway. Los Angeles has the largest veteran population of any county in the nation.

VA's Department of Memorial Affairs, responsible for national cemeteries, estimates that 250 veterans and their dependents will be buried each month in the newly-acquired land. Gravesites are estimated to be available for six and one-half years.

In May, 1982, the cemetery reopened for burial of cremated remains in sites too small or unsuitable for casketed remains. Some 900 veterans or their dependents have been buried through this garden niche method of interment in the cemetery.

California has five of the country's 109 national cemeteries—at Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego in Southern California and San Francisco and San Bruno (Golden Gate) in Northern California. When

the Los Angeles expansion is complete, the cemetery will join Riverside in an open status for the burial of casketed remains. All California national cemeteries are open for the burial of cremated remains.

* * *

New VA Comp, Pension Head: Gerald P. Moore has been appointed director of the VA's \$14 billion Compensation and Pension Service. He has been director of the Milwaukee VA Regional Office since 1981.

VA sends monthly compensation and pension checks to an estimated 3 million veterans. More than 1.3 million surviving spouses and dependents of veterans receive death compensation or pension checks from the VA every month.

A disabled veteran, Moore served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army Special Forces and 1st Air Cavalry Division. He joined the VA in 1972 as a vocational rehabilitation specialist with the Baltimore Regional Office. He later served as a counseling psychologist before becoming a veterans' service officer in 1976.

* * *

New Jersey Gets VA Grant: A \$1.4 million grant to New Jersey to help establish a state-owned veterans' cemetery has been awarded.

The cemetery, to be located in Arneytown near Trenton, will provide an estimated 18,000 gravesites. The grant was made possible through the VA's Cemetery Grants program which provides matching funds to aid states in the establishment, expansion and improvement of veterans' cemeteries. It will assist the state in the cost of site development and construction of administration, maintenance and committal shelter buildings. The cemetery is expected to be completed in the fall of 1985. New Jersey is the eighth state that has been awarded federal funds under this program.

* * *

Service Roundup: At government request, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist has suspended a lower court injunction barring enforcement of the \$10 limitation on attorneys' fees for handling veterans' claims. VFW Resolution 744, adopted by the 85th National Convention, seeks elimination of the \$10 ceiling...VFW National Veterans Service is encouraging Vietnam veterans to take part in the Centers for Disease Control Agent Orange study...Labor Department's Employment and Training Service has launched a drive to raise veteran job placement by 10%. Other federal programs are available to aid ex-service persons...An arbitrator has ruled the VA can give preference to veterans as claims examiners and benefit counselors, deciding against American Federation of Government Employees...Statistics show 318,000 veterans between 25 and 39 are out of work. They represent 6.1% of the work force.

VAMC Praised

As the wife of a veteran, I would like to bring to your attention an experience I am encountering with the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Mich. Although it is not a pleasant one due to my husband's illness, I am totally overwhelmed with the care that he is receiving and the support that all staff at this hospital has been giving me, not to mention to all other patients, relatives and visitors.

My husband was admitted to the VA Medical Center and is going through a traumatic time. During a two-week period, I spent each entire day close to my husband and all personnel throughout this hospital. This experience is very hard to describe in words alone.

Throughout my stay at many different hospitals, I have never encountered such medically and family-oriented staff as I have at this center. There is no comparison with the treatment received by the patient and all others involved. The personnel are the most knowledgeable, professional, competent and concerned individuals I have ever been in contact with. They are not only concerned with the well-being of the patients but also of the families involved. I am not speaking only for myself, as I have observed the same treatment to others staying and visiting in the center. They show compassion, take the time to communicate and make it as comfortable as possible. They have made me feel that they are all my friends and let me know they are available if I need them. My husband is not only receiving the best medical care that I have ever seen, but I am also being given support, assistance and consolation in order to cope.

I would also like it to be known how I feel about Wayne Byrum, the representative who has been in close contact with me from the very beginning and remains so each and every day. In my opinion, he is one of the most caring and compassionate individuals I have ever met in a professional setting. He has been very informative, given me much guidance and consoled me through this period. He has helped me in so many ways that it is impossible to express all that I feel toward this person. I am certain he is a real asset

to this hospital and will continue to be so.

I am also overwhelmed with the services and time donated by the many different veteran's auxiliaries which are brought to each and every patient housed in the basic care section of the hospital. I have observed daily, constant individual attention being given to these patients. I am very impressed with the many activities being made available to these veterans. —*Mrs. Helen Fisher, 12156 Stebbins Avenue, Sparta, Mich. 49345.*

What If...

It is time the story of the key that opened the door to the U.S. Navy's victory at Leyte that broke the Japanese Navy's back should be told.

On Oct. 19, 1944, I was part of the crew of the lone Navy PB4Y on a search mission into the South China Sea trying to locate the Japanese Fleet. Not making contact, this PB4Y, piloted by Capt. Justin Miller, attacked Puerto Princessa, Palawan, at a low level, 100 feet or less. Bombs were dropped on two ships taking on supplies. Another ship anchored a short distance away was set ablaze with machine gun fire. Continuing across the runway were countless aircraft parked with wings interlocked. Fire engulfed the whole area, attesting to the effectiveness of the machine gun fire.

On our second run directed against the seaplane base, we were shot down and spent 16 days on a small atoll a few miles north of Puerto Princessa until we were rescued by Filipino natives. We were told the facility was capable of servicing 1,000 aircraft at a time. Estimates of the number on the ground when we attacked were from 500 to 750. If only 250 planes were ready for combat just 300 miles from Leyte, they could have done untold damage to our fleet and prevented the Leyte invasion from being a success.

Capt. Miller and his crew never received the recognition they should have. —*Curtis S. Ford, Bay Minette, Ala. 36507.*

Veterans Bedside Network

This is to convey our truly heartfelt thanks to your magazine and the dozens of VFW Posts that have become recent supporters of the Veterans Bedside Network.

This past April, you published a fine article (The B Team) about the VBN.

The response was immediate and generous. That speaks well for the impact of your magazine. And it says even more about the patriotism and humanitarian instincts of VFW members.

Since 1948, VBN volunteers have been visiting VA hospitals all over the country using music and drama as therapy every single week of the year. We receive no government funds and use no professional fund raisers. So the contributions we receive go right to where they can do the most good, assuring the continuity of those trips.

This instance of one veterans-service organization helping another shows the clear concern for our shared goal: the improvement of conditions for all veterans in need. And it demonstrates our joint determination to attack the common enemy of all hospitalized veterans, boredom and depression. —*Arnold Drake, National Executive Director, Veterans Bedside Network, 1841 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.*

POW/MIAs

The freedom of the POW/MIAs has been taken away. I was a prisoner of war in Korea, liberated by the 25th Recon. Co. in 1950, and I know what freedom really is. My brother-in-law, M/Sgt. Russell Pete Bott, has been MIA for almost 18 years. He deserves to be free, too, and so do all the other POW/MIAs. This land is

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your land; this land is my land, but most of all this land is also the POW/MIAs'. They fought for it, defended it and deserve the right to be back in their homeland. Let's stand beside them if it's the last thing we do. Honor and respect them. They served our Red, White and Blue. Together, we will win their freedom. Please do your part as an American. Write your President, Senators, and Representative and demand the release of the POW/MIAs from Southeast Asia and Korea now.—*Edward W. Gregory, Jr., 82 Boylston Circle, Shrewsbury, Mass. 01545.*

Hospitality Appreciated

We would like to express our gratitude for the hospitality we experienced while in Chicago attending the 85th Annual VFW National Convention. Everyone was helpful, friendly and genuine. We so enjoyed again visiting with folks we met while on the "Run For Life" as well as meeting many new friends in the VFW—very fine people. The banquets and programs we were involved with were so nice; we shall always treasure our visit to

the Windy City in the summer of 1984 —*Jill and Chris Hayden, P.O. Box 1947, Montrose, Colo., 81402.*

Thanks VFW

The family of Robert Barboza Robles wish to express their gratitude to all members and officers of Post 6969, Dallas, Texas, and District 6 for the support and cooperation bestowed upon us in our time of sorrow. Robert lost his life on April 10, 1984. He did not have life insurance and the family did not have the funds to give Robert a decent burial. A Vietnam veteran, he was a member of the Post. This has helped to strengthen the love we feel for our country and to restore our faith in our fellow men.—*Felipa R. Rodriguez, 854 Portnoma, Dallas, Texas, 75217.*

GIs Not Forgotten

On Sept. 20-22, I attended the impressive ceremonies dedicating the U.S. war memorials in Diekirch, Luxembourg,

commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. The people of Diekirch and other cities of Luxembourg truly opened their hearts to the ex-GI and expressed in many ways their gratitude for our sacrifices of 40 years ago. I have never experienced such warmth and generosity by people in a foreign land.—*Charles E. McGuire, 4909 Banner Road, SE, Port Orchard, Wash. 98366*

Holocaust Anniversary

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who participated in the liberation of Nazi concentration camp inmates 40 years ago are invited to the American Gathering for Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Philadelphia from April 21 to 23. I will be pleased to supply further information.—*Marion A. Wilen, Chairwoman, Memorial Committee for the Six Million Jewish Martyrs, 1520 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.*

NATIONAL HOME

Q-Can mentally retarded individuals live at the National Home?

A-The National Home currently is unable to serve children beyond the time of graduation from high school. Because it is not equipped to work successfully with severely retarded young people. In certain instances, young people of very limited intelligence have been accepted as part of a family grouping or who it is felt can be served adequately.

Q-Does the National Home Fire Department put out real fires?

A-It is extremely rare for the Home's fire department to be involved in actual fire control. Nonetheless, it is ready for such emergencies should they occur. The firefighters learn their skills in training sessions and in putting out demonstration fires. In any event, the youthful members of the fire department would never be allowed to enter a burning building. They would support through spraying water on the outside of such a building.

Q-When was the VFW National Home founded?

A-The National Home was founded in 1925 and is incorporated under the laws of the state of Michigan. It is a non-profit membership corporation operated under the licensing standards of the Michigan Department of Social Services.

Q-What is the policy regarding religious education?

A-National Home children are expected to attend church on a regular basis. They typically attend community churches consistent with the faith of their families.

Historic Cup Joins 8th AF Collection

A glistening piece of history came home to 8th Air Force recently when an inscribed silver cup rejoined three other sterling companions and its matching punch bowl after a 30 year separation.

The cup was donated by Mrs. Beirne Lay, Jr., widow of the late Col. Beirne Lay, Jr., whose name is etched on the piece of 8th Air Force memorabilia. The original punch bowl service was made for Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, 8th Air Force commander, and his eight-member personnel staff in England in 1944. Each cup has the 8th Air Force emblem and the respective staff member's name inscribed on it.

The punch bowl, now on permanent display at 8th Air Force Headquarters at Barksdale AFB, La., was made to commemorate 8th Air Force from \$1,200 left over from the staff's mess fund.

In the spring of 1981, the five

surviving members of the mess agreed with Eaker's suggestion that the punch bowl should be donated to 8th Air Force Headquarters.

On April 28, 1981, Eaker sent his cup, along with the punch bowl and ladle, to Lt. Gen. Edgar S. Harris, then 8th Air Force commander, remarking, "other members may also donate their cups from time to time."

Recently Mrs. Lay sent her husband's cup to Lt. Gen. William J. Campbell, 8th Air Force commander. It has since joined the cups of Gen. Eaker, Brig. Gen. C.P. Lessig and Col. Robert G. Ervin which are displayed next to the punch bowl and ladle.

Col. Lay was commissioned a reserve second lieutenant and received his pilot's wings in 1933. A graduate of Yale University, he flew air mail missions from Chicago before joining the 20th Bomb Squadron, 2d Bomb Group at Langley AFB, Va. During this period he wrote the book, "I Wanted Wings," which became a film in 1941.



Lt. Gen. William J. Campbell, 8th Air Force commander, displays the cup of Col. Beirne Lay, Jr., as it is added to the 8th Air Force

Punch Bowl collection at 8th Air Force Headquarters, Barksdale AFB, La. (USAF Photo)

VA Profiles Vets

The nation's 28.5 million veterans—men and women—make up 16.9% of the American population 16 or older, according to a VA study based on the 1980 census.

For each year of age from 45 to 63, men veterans outnumber non-veteran counterparts. The ratio peaks at almost three to one among males 58.

The 1.1 million women veterans comprise 3.9% of the veteran population, while 1.2% of the nation's female population are veterans.

Black veterans number 2.2 million—7.7% of all veterans. One black civilian in eight is a veteran.

Hispanic veterans total 888,100 or 3.1% of all veterans. Among Americans of Hispanic descent, 9.3% are veterans.

Most veterans—four-fifths of them—served during wartime. Just under 12 million were in World War II, 4.3 million in the Korean War only and 7.4 million were in the Vietnam Era. Some 491,000 veterans survive from World War I.

Four out of five veterans, or 78.7% are married, 8.9% never married, 7.3% were divorced, 3% widowed and 2.2% separated. Male veterans were more likely to be married than female veterans—79.5% to 58.6%. Whites and other races were more likely to be married than blacks—80.2% to 60%.

More than 10 million veterans—37.2%—had at least some college education. Blacks made up 29.4% of this group and Hispanics 33.1%. One in five veterans graduated and half of these went on to post-graduate studies.

More than 36% of the veterans graduated only from high school and 26.4% had fewer than 12 years of schooling.

Four-fifths of the male veterans were in the labor force, while only 53.6% women veterans were.

Slightly more than a fifth of the veterans—22.8%—earned \$25,000 or more in 1979, but half reported

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incomes of \$10,000 to \$25,000 and 27% said they earned less than \$10,000.

Median income was \$16,700, but the difference between female veterans was \$17,000 to \$7,200. Black veterans' median income was \$11,100 compared to the Hispanics' \$13,600.

Copies of the report, "Veterans in the United States: A Statistical Portrait from the 1980 Census" are available from the Statistical Policy and Research Service, Veterans Administration, Washington, D.C. 20420.

9 Honored For Service

One District and two Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries have earned National Silver Awards of Excellence for achievements in Community Activities.

In addition, six Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries have won National Bronze Awards of Merit for their work in this area.

Winning Silver Awards were District 18, made up of Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries, in the Longwood, Fla., area; Post 9619 and Auxiliary, Morningside, Md.; and Post 1442 and Auxiliary, Portland, Ore.

Bronze Awards went to Post 3979 and Auxiliary, Cloquet, Minn.; Post 4418 and Auxiliary, Newberry, Mich.; Post 956 and Auxiliary, Coquille, Ore.; Post 1350 and Auxiliary, North St. Paul, Minn.; Post 8356 and Auxiliary, West Point, Va.; and Post 3460 and Auxiliary, Media Pa.

District 18 donated \$12,000 to the Florida Sheriffs' Youth Fund, raising the money through special events held last spring. A jamboree and other activities resulted in Post 9619's collection of more than \$35,000 for the Prince Georges County Crime Solvers Reward program. Post 1442 conducted an ongoing project of buying and installing more than 50 smoke alarms for needy persons.

Post 3979 worked on the construction of a picnic shelter at Veterans Park that cost nearly \$20,000 and

was completed early last year. Post 4418 built a memorial to Luce County dead of the two World Wars and Korean and Vietnam Wars on high school grounds and in front of Newberry's public library. Post 965 took part in and coordinated events for 1983 Veterans Day, especially those in area schools. Post 1350 awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to local high school students. Post 8356 sponsored Memorial Day ceremonies at West Point High School last May. Post 3460 was cited for its role in sponsoring a Special Olympics event at a junior high school.

In announcing the nine awards, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron praised the District and Posts for their work with young persons and for making their communities better places in which to live.

Past National Officer Dies

Past National Inspector General Charles H. Sullivan, 59, died Nov. 4. Services were held in Sacred Heart Church, Malden, Mass., with burial in

the City of Cambridge, Mass., Cemetery.

A Navy veteran of World War II, he served in the American Asiatic-Pacific and European Theaters, earning two battle stars, as well as being awarded the Philippine Liberation Medal with one battle star.

He was National Chief of Staff during the 1983-84 year, an office to which he was appointed by then Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson, Jr., at the 84th National Convention in New Orleans.

At the time of his death, he was a member of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. He also was a Life Member of Post 7353.

He served as Post Commander and in all other Post Offices, District Commander, Chief of Staff and Vice Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committees.

In private life, he was a foreman with the Cambridge, Mass., Water Department for 37 years. He was a native of Cambridge and lived in Malden.

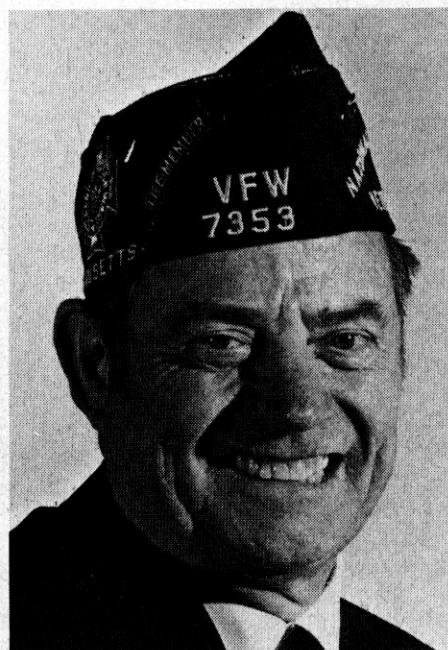
Surviving are his widow, Susan, and two sons and one daughter.

Home Trustee Aids Vets

VFW National Home Trustee, Bob Nickerson, representing District 6, is now state program director for the Louisiana Veterans Employment Service.

"We are helping to put Vietnam Era veterans and disabled and other honorably discharged veterans to work," he said.

The project is operated under the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act signed by President Reagan at the 1983 VFW National Convention and the Job Training Partnership Act, with a grant from the Department of Labor. Since June 1, almost 60% of the veterans interviewed have been hired, and 82 new jobs have been created in Louisiana.



continued on page 16

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States****1984-85 Series****General Orders No. 4**

1. Announcement is made of the following appointments to the Political Action Committee effective Dec. 3, 1984: Director: Charles Ball, Jr., Post 7111, Farmers Branch, Texas, and Treasurer: Ronald A. Duchin, Post 8241, McLean, Va.

2. The following appointments are hereby announced: NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF: James Sample, Post 755, Springfield, Ill.; Darwin Cochran, Post 454, Bloomington, Ill.; Woodrow Siebert, Post 8232, Peru, Ill.; Frank Granno, Post 2825, Chicago Heights, Ill.; Jerry Mojzisek, Post 2165, Chicago, Ill.; Arthur V. Warren, Post 2953, Evansville, Ind.; Michael W. Hess, Post 6095, Latonia, Ky.; Arch C. Roll, Post 6977, York Beach, Maine; Harry Bertges, Post 82, Detroit, Mich.; Paul Aaberg, Post 6139, Zehl, N.D.; George M. Pullie, Post 6091, Dillon, S.C.; Hugh J. Black, Post 3984, Jacksonville, Texas;

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL: Carl Pelletier, Post 7790, Waterbury, Conn.; Edward Jarnell, Post 8081, Warrenville, Ill.; Charles W. Bristow, Post 2921, Louisville, Ky.; Patrick R. Desmond, Post 8835, Winslow, Maine; Mike Mullins, Post 671, DeWitt, Mich.; Everett E. DeMoss, Post 3363, Lisbon, N.D.; Sherwin F. Cihlar, Post 3677, Gabbs, Nev.; and Mel Emore, Post 3034, Sumter, S.C.

3. Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars expires Dec. 31, 1984, unless their 1985 dues are paid and reported to Department and National Headquarters. Commanders and Quartermasters are enjoined to make every effort to renew the membership of continuous members prior to Jan. 1, 1985.

4. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends December 31st. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including Club Manager and Bingo Chairman. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as Post Quartermaster records.

5. All members are urged to send in donations for National Home Christmas Seals. Your contributions should be sent to the VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827.

6. Post Commanders and Americanism Chairman are reminded are reminded of the anniversary of the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor, Feb. 15, 1898. A special meeting or a commemorative program should be held to honor our Spanish-American War Comrades who served in our Nation's cause.

7. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws and directives. Department Inspectors and Deputies shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

8. For the purpose of establishing continuous membership a member may pay back Department and National dues for all delinquent years, provided he was a member in good standing for five (5) consecutive years prior to the time he last became delinquent.

9. The locations of the following Posts have been changed: Post 1716 from Watsonville to Freedom, Calif.; Post 8121 from Del Norte to South Fork, Colo., and Post 8747 from Town of Marlboro to Milton, N.Y.

10. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 1335 and 9390 consolidated as Post 1335, Woodward, Okla.; Posts 1478 and 4053 consolidated as Post 4053, Portland, Ore.; Posts 1927 and 9262 consolidated as Post 1927, Woodland, Wash.; and Posts 4374 and 4701 consolidated as Post 4374, Freehold, N.J.

11. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post 487, Davenport, N.Y.; Post 2398, Worthington, Ohio; Post 2611, Calistoga, Calif.; Post 3310, Sylvania, Ohio; Post 4092, Ferguson, Mo.; Post 4155, St. Louis, Mo.; Post 4436, Montgomery City, Mo.; Post 4608, Greenwood, Mo.; Post 5282, Middletown, Md.; Post 7950, Chesapeake Beach, Md.; Post 8065, Bowie, Md.; Post 8172, Poolesville, Md.; and Post 9481, Pleasanton, Neb.

By Command of
BILLY RAY CAMERON
Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL:

Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

**National Home Holds
Annual Meeting,
Elects Trustees**

Life members of the VFW National Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich., have elected trustees to represent the Home's 5th and 8th Districts.

John M. (Jack) Carney, of Melbourne, Fla., was chosen to represent the 5th District, composed of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Alabama. A former interim director of the Home, Carney succeeds retiring trustee, Emmett Toney.

Stephen R. York, of Elk Grove Village, Ill., the first Vietnam veteran elected to the Board of Trustees, was named to represent the 8th District, made up of Illinois and Indiana. He replaces Mrs. Lola Reid.

President of the Board of Trustees for the coming year is Guy Taylor, with Mrs. Florence Taylor as Vice President, Joseph Epling as Secretary Treasurer and George Cholack, attorney for the 21st year.

The officers were sworn in by Auxiliary Past National President Erline Mayberry.

VFW Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab said he was "impressed with the National Home, and the National Organization is with you all the way."

New VA Cemetery

The Fort Custer National Cemetery, near Battle Creek, Mich., the newest and second largest in the VA system, has been formally dedicated.

The massing of colors was presented by a U.S. Marine Corps color guard. U.S. Flags and unit banners were presented by 63 veterans' and service organizations from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

VA Administrator Harry N. Walters, VA Chief Memorial Affairs Director Paul T. Bannai, and the VA Advisory Committee were among the 2,500 participants at the dedicatory ceremonies.

VA Offers Tips When Mortgage Problems Arise

The recent upturn in the economy should provide good news for some veteran-homeowners who have been unable to meet their mortgage obligations due to layoffs or reduced employment. However, the Veterans Administration is aware that borrowers who will not immediately be able to resume working may be among those who need more time to fully reinstate delinquent home mortgages.

VA continues to stress the importance of personal contact between homeowners who have fallen behind in their payments and their lenders. If additional assistance is necessary, the VA offers financial counseling and tries to arrange reasonable repayment schedules with mortgage holders when the borrower has been unable to do so.

VA representatives are actively participating in community and regional efforts to develop and implement plans to prevent unnecessary home loan foreclosures. This includes working with lenders to encourage forbearance and ensure that mortgage holders are aware of the various options they have for assisting homeowners under VA regulations.

VA is also in contact with state and local agencies which provide assistance in finding jobs for borrowers or which can aid with making direct mortgage payments.

Veterans who are behind in their mortgage payments and are unable to obtain further forbearance from lenders are urged to contact the nearest VA Regional Office.

Player Identified

Thanks to several VFW members, football player unidentified in a picture with Dan McCarthy's story about Heisman Trophy winners in the September issue has been identified as the Redskins' Diron Talbert.

VETERANS SAVE AN EXTRA 10% ON ALASKA.

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discount. Money-saving air/sea packages for cruises and cruise tours are also available from 79 cities.

For reservations or information call Les Kertes toll-free at 800-645-2120. New York residents call collect at 718-895-7062. Or mail in the coupon.

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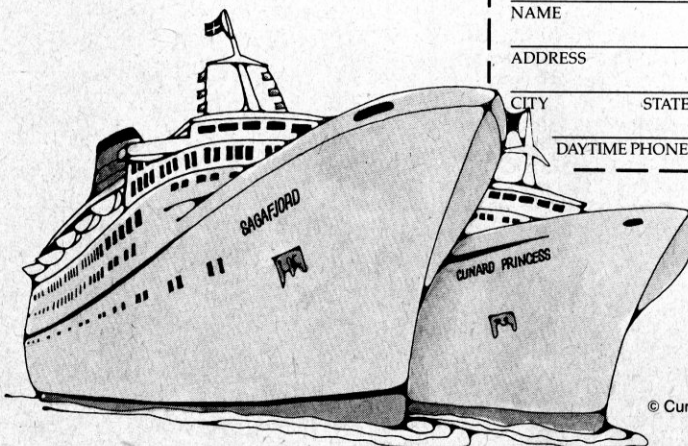
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VFW Leaders Briefed on Defense Issues

DURING A RECENT tour of Washington, National Officers received backgrounders on a variety of major defense and foreign affairs concerns from top military and diplomatic officials and advised them of VFW support for the Armed Forces and U.S. international goals.



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Deputy Secretary of Defense William H. Taft IV, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Gen. John C. Vessey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.



Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard L. Armitage and Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum.



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Lt. Gen. A.E. Brown, Jr., director of Army staff at the Pentagon; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab and Maj. Gen. Schwyler Bissell, deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.



Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum, Adm. R.J. Hays, vice chief of Naval Operations, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.

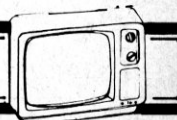


Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab.

See Purchase Power on page 52



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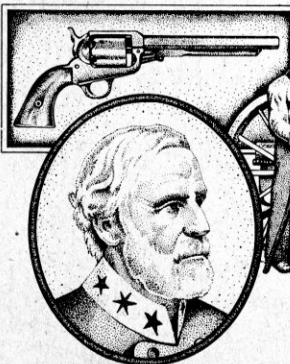
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YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

By Joan M. Maiman

IT MAY SEEM trivial to some, but to the families of the nearly 2,500 Americans still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, it is the government's way of saying these men and their survivors have not been abandoned.

The disc-shaped, half-dollar size medal attached to a ribbon of green, yellow and red stripes has been presented to next-of-kin of the missing in ceremonies.

Acting on a resolution by Sen. Robert C. Byrd (W. Va.), Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation creating the Southeast Asia POW/MIA Commemorative Medal in September, 1983, to honor those Americans who have yet to be accounted for from the Vietnam War.



The medal was approved as Sen. Byrd's amendment to the 1984 fiscal year Defense Authorization Act.

"Last year, as I looked over the long list of names of the missing, I became convinced that Congress should reaffirm its commitment to them," Byrd recalled.

"I could think of no more fitting way to do this than by striking a commemorative medal. This medal will be an enduring symbol of America's recognition of the distinguished service and sacrifice of those missing in Vietnam."

Sen. Byrd presented the first medal to retired Army Col. Earl P. Hopper, chairman of the National League of Families, last July at the organization's national convention.

HIS SON, Air Force Lt. Col. Earl P. Hopper, Jr., was listed as missing in action after his F-4 fighter was shot down over Vietnam on Jan. 10, 1968.

It is worth recalling that on Jan. 27, 1973, the direct American military role in Vietnam ended with the signing of the Paris Accords by the U.S., South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

One of the provisions of the accords called for the

North Vietnamese to make an accounting of the missing in action and the return of all prisoners. By April 1, 1973, North Vietnam had released 590 prisoners. A full accounting of the MIAs, however, has yet to be completed—after 12 years.

The medal presentation ceremonies in Chicago, two months after the 85th VFW National Convention, were typical of similar programs that have been held around the country already or will be conducted.

The names read in the presence of family and friends had been repeated many times over the years. They had marked graduations, military events and in some cases weddings and other celebrations.

But this time it was really special, for the ceremony honored the men who went to serve in the Vietnam War and never returned.

When Congress authorized the special commemorative medal, the Senate and House of Representatives noted it was for "those American personnel still missing and perhaps held captive in Southeast Asia."

Since the passage of the law establishing the medal, 11 additional sets of remains have been identified as those of American servicemen, leaving 2,483 medals.

Illinois was one of those states with two ceremonies, one in Chicago and one in Springfield, the state capital, to allow as many persons as possible to participate.

The Chicago event was held at the National Guard facility at O'Hare Airport.

As the name of each missing man was read and the date he was reported missing was given, family members were escorted to the front of the room and presented with their Southeast Asia POW/MIA Commemorative Medals as a military salute was rendered.

Those coming forward ranged from mothers now in their 70s to the 22-month-old grandniece of an MIA. The 183rd Tactical Fighter Group of the Illinois Air National

Guard had been scheduled for a flyover, but bad weather forced its cancellation.

Maj. Gen. Harold G. Holesinger, Illinois adjutant general who welcomed the VFW National Convention to Chicago, assured the families of his support.

Sen. Charles Percy (Ill.), then chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that "while we can expect some disappointments in our future efforts to account fully for the missing men, we will press on with this effort" and added that President Reagan has made the accounting of the missing men "a priority issue."

Several other members of Congress were present, including Rep. Henry Hyde (Ill.), a member of Post 3579.

Inscribed on the obverse side of the medal are the words:

"Missing While Serving in the Defense of Freedom in Southeast Asia." "POW/MIA" is etched in the center of the medal's rim at the bottom.

As in ceremonies held elsewhere throughout the nation, the VFW was well represented, a further indication of the organization's unstinting support for demands for the MIAs' accounting and release of any Americans still held prisoner.

For example, Illinois Department Commander Christopher Tsilis, Ken Hanley, of Post 9545; Edward Gjertsen, of Post 3579; James Felton, of Post 5535, and Jerry Krokocki, all active in Department VFW work, stressed their commitment to continued work for the accounting of the MIAs on all levels of the organization, from Post to National.

The medal awarded in honor of her son, MIA Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lemon, was not accepted by Mrs. Carol Lemon, Illinois director of the National League of Families, for it had been presented earlier to his wife, Jane, in ceremonies in Phoenix, Ariz.

Medal presentation ceremonies held at the home of Post 5690 in Port Charlotte, Fla., touched next-of-kin of the Vietnam War and Korean War.

Rep. Connie Mack (Fla.) honored the parents of two Vietnam War missing, Col. and Mrs. Deane R. Churchill and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Goodrich. Also Rep. Mack presented Mrs. Mary Douglas with a Flag that had flown over the Capitol in honor of her brother who was declared missing Dec. 3, 1950, and officially listed as killed in action in 1953 during the Korean War.

The Churchills' son is Capt. Carl R. Churchill and the Goodriches' son is Lt. Col. Edwin R. Goodrich, Jr. Mrs. Douglas's brother was Cpl. Paul E. Heald.

Later the four parents and Mrs. Douglas were honored by the Post with a dinner.

Another of the many ceremonies was the presentation of the medal to the parents of S/Sgt. Herndon A. Bivens, of Jamaica, N.Y., missing in action since April 15, 1970. Retired Army Lt. Col. and Mrs. Ernestine Bivens received

MRS. Dor-
etha Lofton, an em-
ployee at the Salisbury,
N.C., VA Medical Center,
receives the commem-
orative medal from Rep.
G.V. (Sonny) Montgo-
mery, chairman of the
House Veterans Affairs
Committee, and Rep.
W.G. Hefner (N.C.). With
them is Thomas L. Ayres,
center director. Mrs.
Lofton's son, Jerry L.
Moore, has been missing
since Feb. 15, 1969. She
said the ceremony was
"very special to me."



the medal through Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo.

On Veterans Day, Commander Ben Thompson, of Post 1896, Jamaica, accepted an MIA/POW flag from Past Commander Irving F. Jones, Jr., as Sgt. Bivens's parents watched. Like the medal, the flag bears the words, "You Are Not Forgotten." The Bivenses hoisted it, below the U.S. Flag, aloft on the pole at the Post home. It will be flown until Sgt. Bivens is accounted for, said Thompson, adding it is dedicated to all POW/MIAs.

NINETEEN WHEN he was reported missing, Sgt. Bivens had been accepted by Howard University music school before he entered service. Coincidentally, Mary Ann Drago, of nearby Richmond Hill, who read of Sgt. Bivens's flag ceremony,

remembered she had an MIA/POW bracelet bearing his name, but was unaware that she lived so close to the family. Post 1896 is named for John Proctor and Arthur Hopson, the first two black soldiers from Jamaica to die in WWI.

In a recent issue of the newsletter of the National League of Families, the organization of POW/MIA next-of-kin reported:

"Most ceremonies thus far held were beautifully planned and clearly demonstrated the bipartisan concern of the U.S. Congress for the families and for obtaining the fullest possible accounting.

"These ceremonies also were and are an important vehicle for public awareness as most have been highly publicized and this afforded increased visibility of the issue."

The newsletter article also praised the work done by the medal's designer, Thomas M. Nielsen, a Veterans Administration artist and Vietnam veteran, who incorporated his experiences in the medal. He also did the poster for POW/MIA Recognition Day that featured a chained eagle. The medal is produced by the United States Mint.

Nielsen served a year in Vietnam as a .50 caliber machine gunner aboard a

Navy armored troop carrier in the Mekong Delta in a unit composed of half Navy and half Army 9th Infantry. He returned for a second tour aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ranger.

He chose as the symbol of the POW/MIAs on the obverse side the bald eagle, surrounded by the bamboo of Southeast Asia to give the impression of an imprisoned bird. On the reverse are the words "You Are Not Forgotten," a reminder of the families and friends who have stood behind the missing with a steadfast desire for their return. These words appear above a depiction of the Vietnam Service Medal, lying as if on a mantel waiting to be claimed by the missing American to whom it was to have been awarded. It is the campaign medal of the Vietnam War.

On the upper rim of the medal's reverse appear the words "Honoring Americans Still Missing." On the lower portion of the edge and separated by stars are "1961 Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia 1973." In the lower corner beneath the reproduction of the Vietnam Service Medal is "By Act of Congress, September, 1983."

The Vietnam Service Medal theme is continued in the colors of the green, yellow and red stripes of the commemorative medal's ribbon, for these are the colors of the Vietnam Service Medal ribbon. The green represents the jungles of Vietnam and the yellow and red are those of the flag of the Republic of Vietnam.

Nielsen is no stranger to the VFW. Since his discharge

from the Navy, he has been a member of several Posts. What is almost as important, perhaps, is work he has been commissioned to do for the organization.

For example, a few years ago at the behest of Jerry Yates, then Commander of the VA Central Office VFW Post 1830, Nielsen painted a portrait of Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.), who chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee, for presentation by the Post. Yates told delegates to the 1982 National Convention of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

IN ADDITION, Nielsen was commissioned by the VFW to do a portrait of Past Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Roudebush, a former Indiana member of the House of Representatives and VA Administrator under President Gerald R. Ford. The portrait of Roudebush was unveiled in the ceremonies naming the Indianapolis VA Medical Center in the Past Chief's honor.

Nielsen, a native of Clinton, Iowa, enlisted in the Navy shortly before his high school graduation in 1966. Even in school, he had an all-consuming interest in art and commercial design, which he studied on his own.

Not only did he serve in combat in Vietnam, but he and nine other Vietnam veterans returned to the country in 1971 to build housing for disabled Vietnamese veterans and their families at what they called the Cat Lai Commune near Saigon. This was the subject of an article in the VFW Magazine in January, 1972, "They Returned to Build."

One of the 10 veterans explained in the article the reason for the return was "to prove that all Vietnam veterans aren't potheads, smack freaks and radical peaceniks." Nielsen was quoted as saying he joined the group as evidence that "we aren't all a bunch of animals." Up to then he had been painting portraits on a riverboat on the Mississippi.

In 1971, after returning to the U.S. from the Cat Lai project, Nielsen visited Washington and liked the city. Deciding to stay, he obtained a trainee slot with the VA and later began working as an artist, a position he has held for 11 years.

The medal possibility was opened up to him, Nielsen related, when Yates, now president of the Vietnam Veterans Institute, approached him for ideas on the award. After all, Nielsen was a natural, if only because he had worked with Yates before.

"I worked out the design and kept in close touch with Sen. Byrd's office since he had introduced the legislation establishing the medal," he said.

Explaining the symbolism of the medal, Nielsen said the wording is a reminder that the families, the missing in action and the prisoners will not be abandoned.

Bamboo was chosen as an element in the design because it represents Southeast Asia and Vietnam.

"The significance is that it speaks directly to the very people we are addressing," he added. ■

About the author

Joan M. Maiman, a member of the Illinois State Agent Orange Commission, was with the Red Cross in Vietnam and has written frequently for the VFW Magazine and other publications.



Veterans Administration artist, Thomas Nielsen, a Vietnam veteran and member of VFW Post 1830 in Washington, D.C., designed the Southeast Asia POW/MIA Commemorative Medal.

FOCUS ON POW/MIA CAUSE



THE HONOR Guard of Post 392, Virginia Beach, Va., takes part in ceremonies of relighting the flame of hope for POW/MIAs at Oceana, Va. It was extinguished in 1973 because of the energy crisis.

PLATES SAY 'THANK YOU, EX-POW'



By Phyllis Rossiter

SOMEWHERE near the Siegfried Line in Germany, during the winter of 1944, PFC Clyde Loftis, driving a jeep pulling an ammo trailer, rounded a bend in the road.

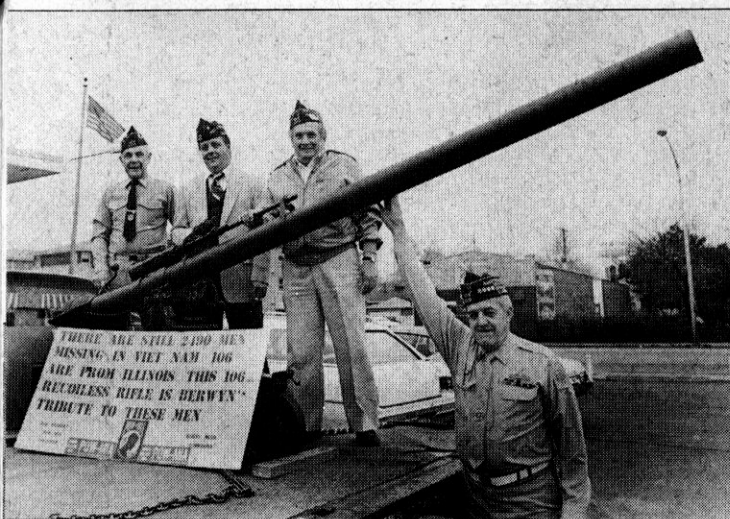
Coming at him head on—straight out of a nightmare and belching phosphorous shells—was a German tank. Clyde and about a dozen other men from D Co., 38th Infantry, ran for cover in the basement of a bombedout building beside the road. But it was too late; the tank crew knew they were there.

It lumbered to a halt beside the derelict building, pivoted crosswise of the road, menacingly lowered its 88 gun and took dead aim into one of the basement windows.

"We looked up that big barrel and knew we didn't want any part of that phosphorous," Clyde remembers. In his easy chair safe at home on his farm in the Ozarks, Clyde is a long way in time and space from that wartime experience.

"When we started up the basement steps, they let go with a few rounds, but only a couple of us were nicked. They held us overnight in the basement, took all our belongings—our cigarettes. The next morning we marched eight or 10 miles to the railroad. They loaded us in a boxcar; we rode a day and a night."

Clyde runs a work-worn hand over his short gray hair. It's all coming back now. "When we got to the camp, we were split up. I guess there must have been at least a thousand men there—Italians, French, English—all the Allies. I'd been real lucky up to then, but I got dysentery



A 106mm recoilless rifle, symbolizing the 106 men from Illinois missing from the Vietnam War, formed Post 2378's display in the Loyalty Day parade in Berwyn, Ill.

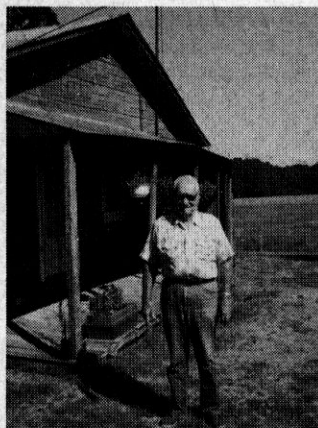


REP. Benjamin A. Gilman (N.Y.) presented a POW/MIA flag to Liberty, N.Y., Supervisor Abraham Kleinman, not shown, to be flown in front of the Liberty Town Hall below the U.S. Flag. Right is then Commander Douglas Grippen, of Post 9217.

in that camp.

Clyde grins apologetically. "I remember one time eating some soup that had worms in it. Yessir, about a half-inch long. Anyway, I ate 'em—and was glad to get 'em."

It is doubtful that Clyde Loftis worried much about his



Former prisoner of the Germans in WWII, Clyde Loftis stands in front of his Missouri Ozark farm home.

car licenses that winter. But now, 40 years later, his home state of Missouri has passed a law making it possible for him and the 670 of his fellow ex-prisoners of war in the state to receive free vehicle license plates, especially designated "Former POW." In the case of World War II POWs, with an average age of 66 in Missouri — many of whom are no longer working — the free license plates are a welcome relief from the recent increase in license fees.

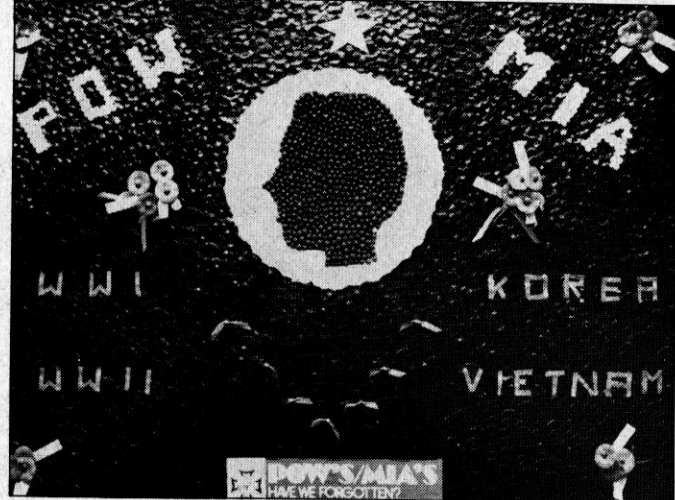
Introduced into the Missouri Legislature with the support of the VFW Department of Missouri by Rep. Robert L. Fowler (St. Louis) at the urging of Charles Couchman, a St. Louis ex-POW, the law became effective on Sept. 28, 1983, after five years' work. At a press conference in the office of Richard King, Missouri's director of revenue, Couchman's plates were awarded in

a special ceremony. According to David V. Kormann, Director of Missouri's Division of Motor Vehicle and Drivers Licensing, "public demand prompted the passage" of this legislation.

"WE HAD SOME opposition in Missouri from people who didn't want to lose the revenue from the licenses," says Virgil Moore, a member of Post 280, Columbia, Mo., and past commander of the Missouri Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. "We said we weren't asking for free plates, just identification plates so we could know each other, which was the main thing we wanted. But Rep. Fowler and others hung in there and when the law finally passed, the plates were free."

To apply, a Missourian needs VA verification of his prisoner of war status and his honorable discharge. This proof can be requested by mail or telephone to the VA's St. Louis Regional Office. Missouri and VFW Veterans' Service Officers will assist if requested. With the VA's letter, a personal property tax receipt, an up-to-date annual vehicle inspection certification and proof of vehicle ownership, the special plates will be issued for one car, motorcycle, truck or recreational vehicle. There is no fee for the license plate, and no charge is made for renewal in subsequent years. All plates are renewable in October.

Moreover, the citizens of many—in fact, most—other states feel the same way. Tennessee was first; she made the special plates available in 1973, at least six years



POST 8118, Venice, Fla., used Buddy Poppies to highlight the POW/MIA issue.



BEFORE more than 25,000 fans at Yankee Stadium during the Yankee-Minnesota game, Putnam County, N.Y., Council Past Commander Edward Duncan presents a POW/MIA flag to Yankees' President Eugene McHale on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. With them are Lydia Scherer, Past District 2 Auxiliary President, and District 2 Commander James Longendyke.

before any other state. Furthermore, in 1982 the Tennessee Legislature amended the law to provide two free plates, with no registration or renewal fees. And the Nevada law even provides for free parking in city, state and county lots.

As a matter of fact, the only states not having similar programs are Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Vermont and Utah, where this legislation has twice failed to pass the State Senate. Not all the states issue the special plates free of charge, however.

Some states provide only special former POW identification plates; the veterans pay the same license fees as formerly. In about half the states, however, the license plate itself is free, and the individual must pay only the normal registration fee. In the rest, no charge is made for registration, renewal or the license plate itself.

BUT ARE THE special plates too little, too late? "I don't see it that way," says Virgil Moore. "The federal government has been good to me since I've been back; I don't figure that state owes me anything.

"The main thing we wanted was some identification so we would know each other. We felt there might be former POWs around us, and we did not know them. We felt that if we could get an identification license, we could have a chance of meeting them. We have information about the POWs we were with in camp which would be of value to other POWs and the families of former POWs. And some of these guys don't get a chance

to talk about their experiences; they need to get together and talk. Yes, it has helped a lot."

VIRGIL WAS IN the Army Air Corps in World War II. On his 19th mission—bombing Bremen on March 22, 1944—his plane was shot down. Several of his fellow crewmen were killed. Although he suffered a severe head injury, was in a coma for 19 days and a hospital for three months, he survived to spend 14 months in a prisoner of war camp near the Baltic Sea. "We almost starved," he recalls matter of factly. "But our big problem was the lice. We didn't have any way to fight the lice."

It seems such a small thing, special license plates. But how can the public even begin to thank these men properly? They gave of their precious youth and, in some cases, their irreplaceable health? The honorary plates are only a token of what we feel, of our gratitude and respect. What more can you say, except "thank you," to men who nearly starved to death?

"You know, the one thing I couldn't eat," Clyde Loftis admits, "not even when I was starving—was Limburger cheese! I just couldn't swallow it. I traded it to somebody else for a little ol' boiled potato."

About the author

Phyllis Rossiter is now a fulltime writer after working as an administrative assistant, office manager, teacher and librarian. Her husband is a 3rd Army veteran; their son served in the Navy and step-son is in the Air Force.

Epilogue is Prologue

THE AFTERNOON flight to Kansas City was filling up on Monday, Nov. 12, the day following the Vietnam Veterans Salute II weekend in Washington. No one aboard looked to have been a participant in the festivities. It was a quiet group of travelers, mostly business-suit types, already poring over the latest issues of *Forbes*, *Fortune* and *Business Week*.

At 4:30 p.m., the time the flight was scheduled to take off, three men, laden with carry-on luggage, made their way to the back of the plane.

"Made it," one said.

Two took their seats across the aisle. The third sat two seats over from me next to the window. A large man, he wore a ball cap, tee shirt, jeans and cowboy boots. The cap and tee shirt were emblazoned with Vietnamese inscriptions and some quotes in English denigrating Jane Fonda. He looked like an interior lineman for the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

I asked if he'd enjoyed the weekend. "Yeah," he said. He'd been in Washington, D.C., since the previous Thursday and was ready to go home. "You in Nam?" he asked.

No, I wasn't. I'd served in Korea, I told him, not during the war but in the mid-60s. I explained I was in Washington to cover Salute II for the *VFW Magazine*.

He settled back, looked out the window. "I didn't decide to go until the week before. I had to get in my

SALUTE

II America's Veterans ONE AND ALL

By Warren Maus

beans. Glad I did, though. And I'm glad to be going home." Home is a small farm community near York, Neb.

Later he volunteered, "I went to a VFW Post one time. I don't know, maybe it was me or something else, but I got the feeling all those older guys were looking at me, sort of waiting for me to go crazy, you know, being a Vietnam vet and all. That was a while ago. Maybe it's different now."

THE PREVIOUS Saturday, as the plane taking me to Washington banked hard right off the Potomac River to land at National Airport, I could see below a dense crowd surrounding the Three Fightingmen Statue. Many more strolled along the walkways in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial's polished black granite walls. Far in the distance, at the east end of the Mall nearer the Capitol, a larger crowd had massed to listen to live entertainment. I had expected to be down

Chris Noel: A voice like smoke



Frankie Valli: A "Sherry" serenade





there in the midst of the group, but unpredictable Midwest weather put my plans and plane in a holding pattern over St. Louis.

Thank goodness my photographer was down there to get some pictures. He would fill me in on the Vietnam Commemorative Stamp ceremony at noon and the concert on the Mall. I had really wanted to see the F-4 Phantoms, the Hueys and the A-6s flyover. My photographer, Vern Pall, is a claims consultant on VFW's Board of Veterans Appeals staff.

When I arrived at my hotel, I could still hear the music from the Mall, 30 minutes past the scheduled time. Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons must have been doing some encores, I thought.

Ahead of me at the registration counter, a man was spelling out my name to the desk man and asking if I'd checked in yet.

I told him I hadn't but was about to. He was Vern, the photographer I was to work with. He'd expected me earlier and I hadn't been able to contact him.

He filled me in on the stamp issuing ceremony and the concert. The stamp ceremony was one of those ritual affairs with highly-placed officials making official speeches. But the important thing was the recognition the stamp presented. It is a drawing of the memorial wall done by Paul Calle.

Ceremonies and ritual, I feel, have a rightful, even necessary, place at something like this, but the real story had more to do with the veterans who came from out of town, like the ones on the Mall listening to Chris Noel, whose voice had filled so many hours of airwaves on Armed Forces Network in Vietnam.

"The guys went crazy when she was on stage," Vern said. The sun had broken through the clouds just in time for the concert, and the partying had begun in earnest.

Vern and I mapped out the rest of the weekend's activities and agreed to meet later to cover the candlelight vigil at the memorial.

My schedule set, I called Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron's room to let him know I'd arrived and to see if there'd been any changes in plans. Getting no answer, I went to the lobby and found him sitting in a crowd. Before he saw me, I heard him talking to three or four of them in earnest. "Listen, guys, I'm not saying we've always done everything right, but we're trying. That's about the only promise I can make."

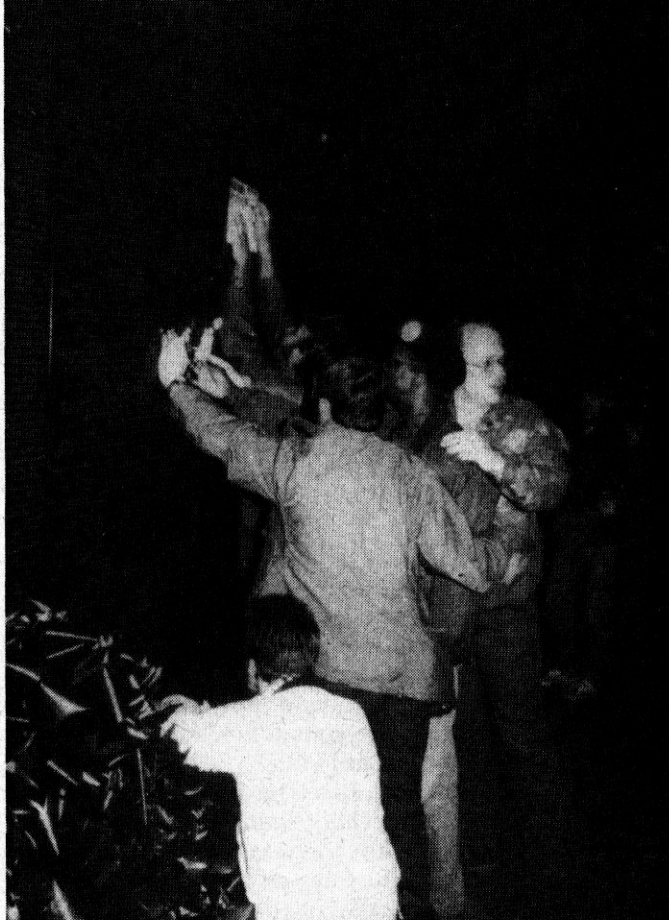
No changes. Everything was set.

Festival Band: Vietvets give good vibrations



A crowd-pleasing concert on the Mall





HOOKED UP with Vern again at 5:30 and headed for the memorial. Though the starting time was an hour later, a crowd of 5,000 to 6,000 had already gathered on the knoll just northeast of the memorial. Almost everyone was holding candles, lighting new arrivals' candles from their own, around each flame a hint of a corona.

As we made our way to the press section was near the stage and military band, I noticed the crowd was not very homogeneous. Though the bulk appeared to be Vietnam veterans, many looked as if they were parents of sons and daughters, or aunts and uncles of nephews and nieces, who might have served. There were small children, full of energy and reluctant to

stand quietly and hold a candle.

Several groups of teenage boys and girls stood in semicircle gatherings, as teenagers often seem wont to do. They seemed curious more than anything else. It was almost as if they were getting a glimpse of the 60s they'd heard their parents talk about. Woodstock and Altamont, the Beatles and the Stones, they knew about. Vietnam was a little fuzzy.

Vietnam was and still is a little fuzzy for many.

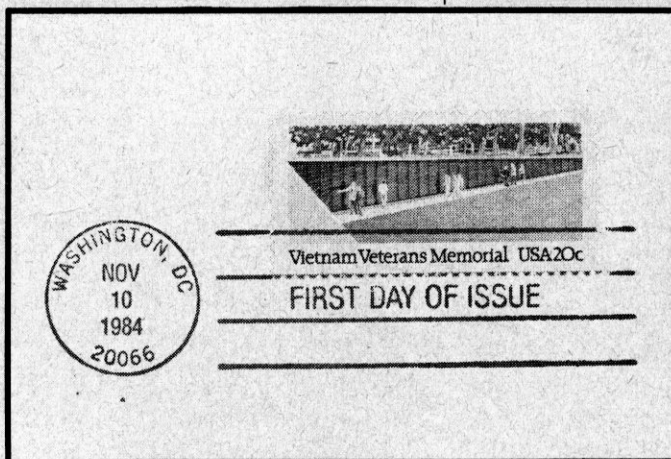
The National League of Families sponsored the vigil. Everywhere you turned, people bore POW/MIA flags. The speakers offered prayers and pleas to account for our missing in action in Vietnam and other wars.

I spoke with an Australian who had climbed on top of a truck to get a better photograph of the sea of lights. He said he'd served in Vietnam with 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. He summed up the vigil with a wave of his hand toward the crowd: "I like this."

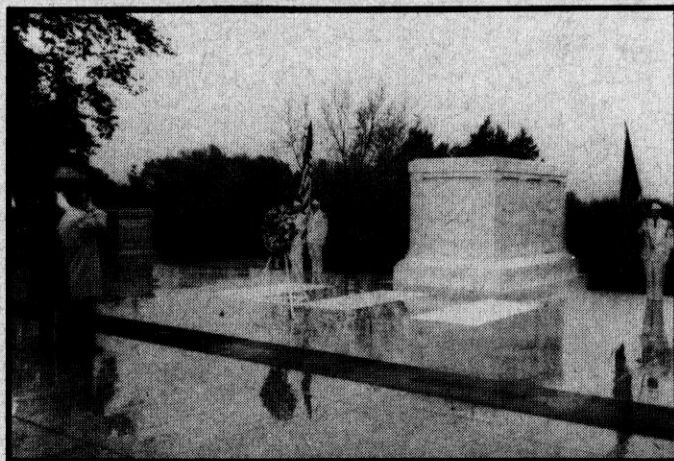
Vern led me to the latest addition to the Memorial, Fred Hart's Three Fightingmen Statue. Though I'd seen pictures of it when still in clay, just prior to bronzing, I was quite eager to view it first hand. Several people, still carrying their vigil candles, stood around the perimeter barrier. Occasionally someone would reach over to touch the amazingly lifelike statue. A former soldier, dressed in jungle fatigues, bent over the fence and placed a unit patch at the base on which the three figures were standing. His joined a dozen or more others, along with service ribbons and bouquets of flowers and floral wreaths.

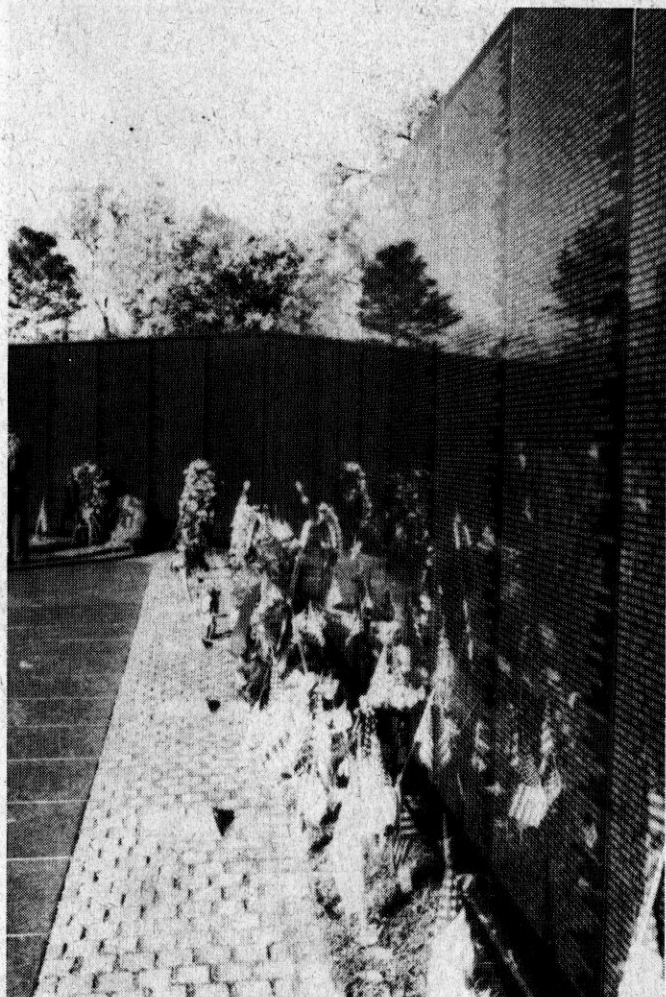
From the statue, we walked down the path leading from the statue in front of the memorial walls where

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Stamp



Chief Cameron salutes at the Tomb





many candlebearers were seeking the names of friends and relatives.

As we headed east, we met larger and larger crowds, hundreds of people leaving the completed vigil. People stood four or five deep on the walkway, moving in half-steps and halts, but nonetheless respectful of those who paused for a few moments to pay tribute.

A few blocks past the White House at Salute II headquarters in the Hotel Washington, more than a hundred vets already had made their way into the hotel's lobby, the somberness of the vigil giving way to high spirits. Tonight was the big night for the reunions at hotels throughout the Washington area.

THE FOLLOWING morning Vern and I met Billy Ray Cameron and his coterie in the hotel lobby to go to Arlington National Cemetery for ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A steady rain washed the streets as we drove crosstown to Arlington. Once there we waited in the Amphitheater's museum until it was VFW's turn to lay a wreath at the Tomb.

Chief Cameron's leg was bothering him some. In Vietnam in 1967, toward the end of his tour, he almost lost a leg while leading a patrol of new Marines in an area unfamiliar to them. A mine exploded.

After representatives of a French veterans' group had laid their wreath, it was the VFW's turn to pay tribute. The rain refusing to let up, the VFW National Color Guard climbed the steep steps to flank the Tomb. Chief Cameron descended from the Amphitheater and placed the wreath at the Tomb, where finally a Vietnam veteran's remains were interred last Memorial Day.

A crowd of about a hundred people braved the downpour to watch the ceremony, one repeated several times that morning by numerous other veterans' organizations.

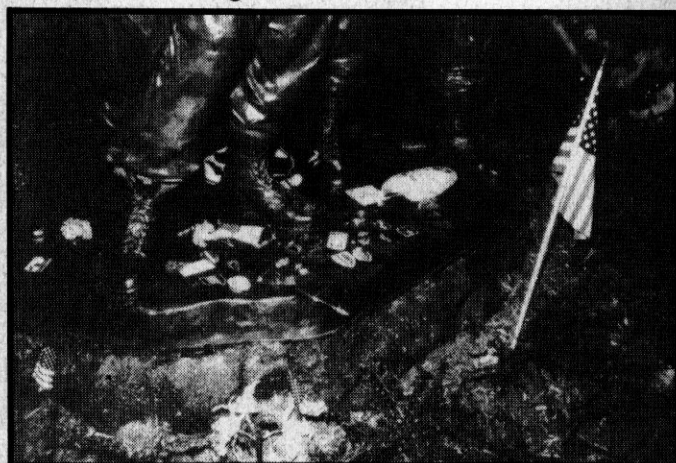
It was Veterans Day, and veterans from everywhere were showing up to honor their numbers who didn't make it back.

At 11 a.m., Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger arrived to lay the Presidential Wreath. Most of the overflow crowd was already seated in the Amphitheater, listening to music by the U.S. Air Force Band. From the parapet surrounding the Amphi-

"Stars and Stripes Forever" brought out Flags



Unit patches, Flags and flowers adorn the statue



theater, I could see still more people flocking toward the memorial. The rain stopped, and the band played until the master of ceremonies, Cooper T. Holt, called for the Colors to be advanced.

Most of the groups which earlier had laid wreaths now bore their organizations' standards and U.S. Flags into the Amphitheater, a colorful and stirring pageant accompanied by the band's rendition of "Veterans of Foreign Wars March."

The program lasted for about 45 minutes, with dignitaries praising the role of veterans and the band playing patriotic melodies.

When it came time for Chief Cameron to address the group, he spoke more softly than most of the other speakers. His language was straightforward, but his theme was the same: We must not forget those who went before us to protect what we have today.

"We have not gathered here to mourn our dead with solemn faces and dull words," he said. "We are here to honor them, to sing their triumphs, to praise them, and to offer a deep and grateful thank you to those who made the supreme sacrifice, to thank them for what they have given us, and most importantly, to thank them for their patriotism."

Toward the end of the program, the Air Force band played Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." Small U.S. Flags now appeared everywhere. The pulsing beat of the music was answered by the metronomic, enthusiastic waving of Flags in time with the music.

The program completed, the crowd filed out. Vern and I stopped by a tent offering hot coffee. I asked a vet in jungle fatigues what he thought of the program. "It was good. I liked it."

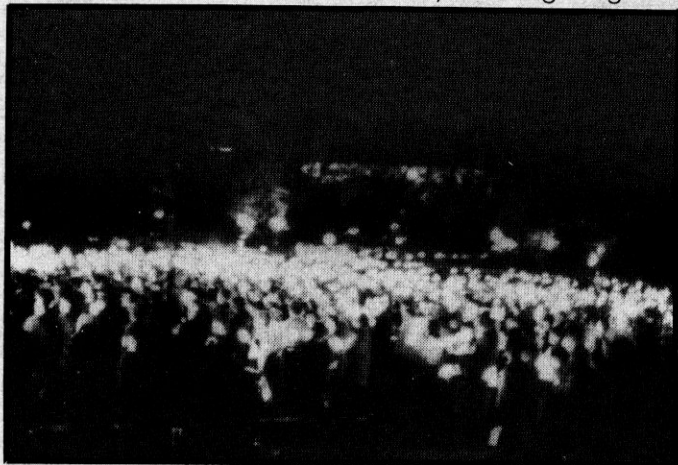


THE DEDICATION of the Three Fightingmen Statue and the transferral of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the National Parks Service was to have taken place at 2 p.m., the final official event slated by the Salute II organizing committee, but on Saturday morning, it was announced that President Reagan was going to attend, and the dedication and conveyance had to be set back to 3:30.

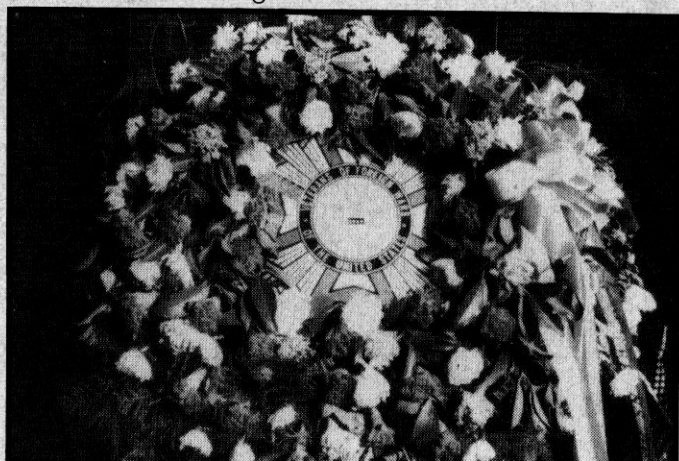
When we arrived at the memorial grounds at 1:30, a huge crowd had already gathered. The press entrance was jammed with scores of people pushing toward the security gate. Only about one in three was allowed to enter. Armed with press passes, we tried to make our way toward the gate but gained little headway.

Behind us, I heard one veteran urging another to see if they might get in through the press gate. "Forget it,"

Thousands lit candles at Saturday evening's vigil



A wreath of homage



Prologue is Epilogue

the other said, "that one's for the suits."

We decided to abandon our quest for an up front position and capture some of the flavor of the crowd. Not far from the press entrance, several veterans' groups had set up makeshift recruiting stations, each outlining its programs and its initiatives. While Vern tried to capture images on film, I spoke with several veterans about what they felt Salute II meant. "I've been here four days, and every day I came to see the wall and the statue. Now it's going to happen."

Others echoed the same sentiments: Now it's going to happen.

I wasn't sure what was going to happen. I knew what was on the program. I knew what was going to be said. But I didn't know what *really* was going to happen. Maybe it was going to be a gigantic sigh, a catharsis of sorts, meaning, "It's all behind us now. Let's get on with it." That seemed to be a theme in many of the speeches.

For security reasons, a large portion of the area surrounding the memorial had been cordoned off to the general public. Organizers, planning on a large crowd and extra security if the President showed up, had installed an elaborate speaker system so everyone could hear everything even if they couldn't see very much of the actual dedication ceremony.

By 3:30, the crowd had swollen to almost 200,000, according to the Park Police. Outside the inner circle, standing beyond the barricades, I heard a few people grumble about not being able to see, but the tone wasn't angry, more like the complaints heard at a football game when you thought your 50-yard line seats were closer to the field.

CAMPED OUT with Vern on the knoll where the previous night the vigil had taken place. Now it was a place where many gathered to say good-byes to their friends they'd spent the weekend with. Hand-lettered signs bearing unit numbers were everywhere, advertising for lost comrades to join them, seeking comrades from an earlier time and a much different place.

In the distance, I could see the POW/MIA Vigil of Honor. On Christmas Eve, 1982, they had begun their around-the-clock vigil to inform any and all of the plight of POWs and MIAs, and they were still at it.

I eavesdropped on a group nearby:

"Listen, let's get a reunion together next year."

"Sounds good. You going to organize it?"

"Not a chance. But Sheppard'll do it, I bet." He shouted to another group nearby. One of the group came over.

"Shep, you got a list of everybody. How about we have a reunion next year?"

"Count me out," he said.

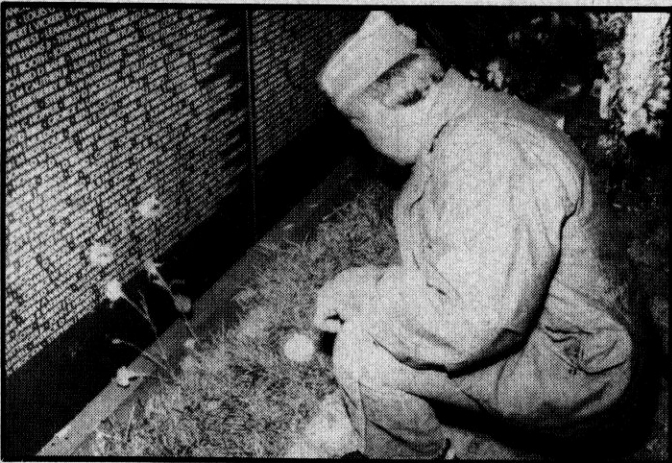
"Why?"

"Too soon," he said. "Maybe in a couple of years. Send me your address if you move."

The loudspeakers carried the speeches from the stage to the people. I heard Chief Cameron's speech through all the good-byes.

"Today this very beautiful statue is being installed as part of the National Salute to Veterans. I pray we use this event as a signal to end any remaining division among veterans. And from this day forward we, as American veterans of all wars, can consider ourselves American veterans, one and all."

A moment of meditation



On the lookout for former comrades



Standing in front of the historic Veterans Memorial Building in Hanford, Calif., the site of the free Career Awareness Programs (CAP), counselor Danielle Roe, center, chats with Mike Baca, left, and Roger Froelich during one of the four-day sessions. Post 5869, one of 14 all-Nisei Posts, and Post 1994 help out by providing free coffee and doughnuts.

He Saves

Danielle Roe, have taken their act on the road to various other military installations.

"We don't know exactly what the cost saving has been to the state of California so far," Ford said. "But the figure seems to be between \$10 million and \$14 million.

"Basically what we're doing is keeping people in the job market without utilizing public-funded agencies to find them jobs because they're doing it on their own."

Ford, 38, has been known to bark like a first sergeant to his CAP enrollees.

"Before I'm through with you," he'll snarl and intimidate, "I'll have talked some of you into staying in the Navy.

"And if you think you're ready for civilian life, no, you're not. You're dead wrong!"

He has the statistics to back up his boast, too. After the four-day CAP session, between 12% and 15% of those men and women will "ship over" (re-enlist).

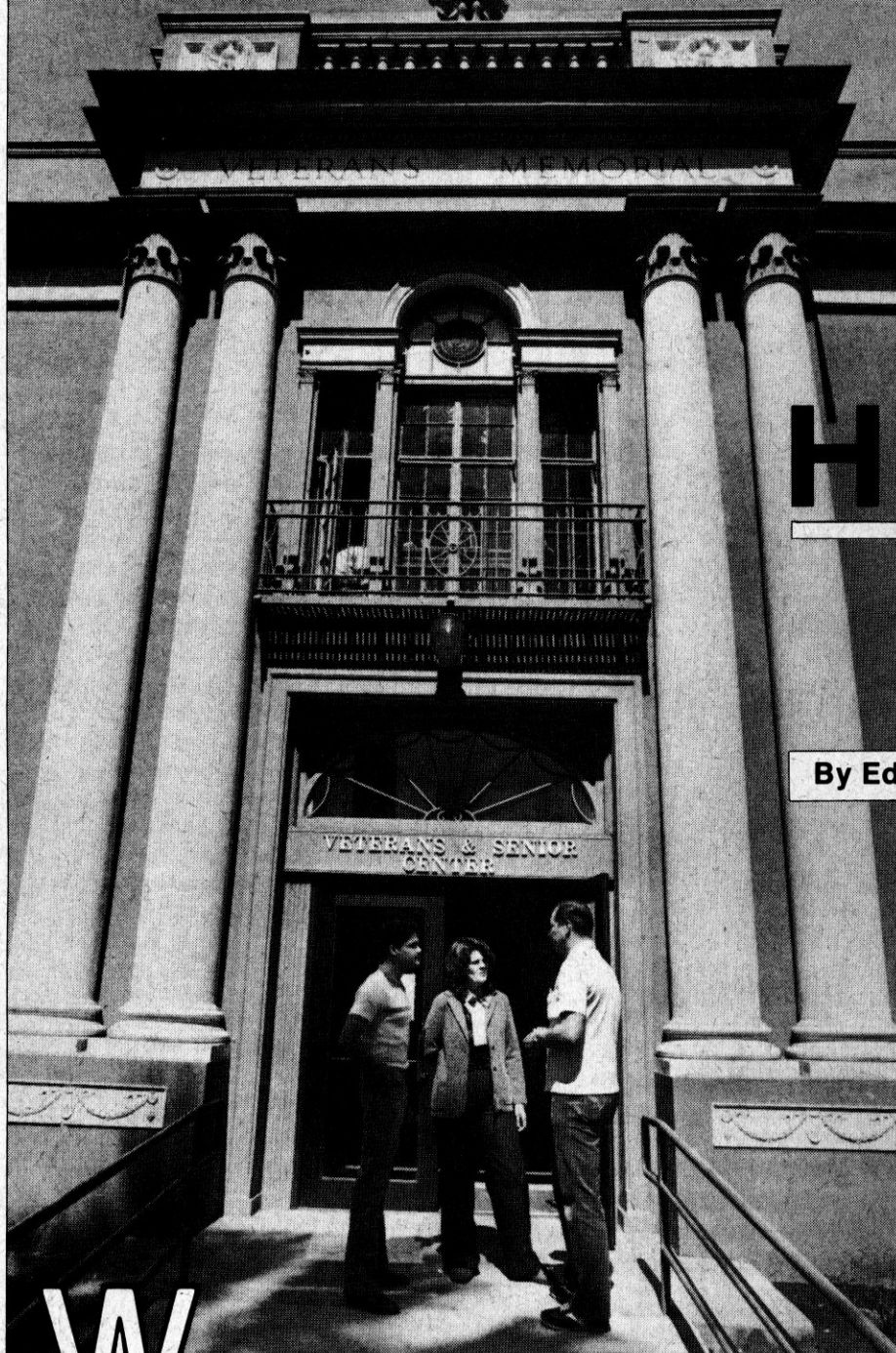
And that's where CAP is a money-saver for the government.

"It costs \$380,000 to replace a person with an E-7 rank and 20 years in the service," Ford explained. "If I could save the Navy only 3% of its E-7s, get them to re-enlist, do you know how much money that represents?"

"We think that's a helluva return for their investment when we can point out the fact that we've kept 10 E-7s in the Navy who have gone through CAP."

One of Ford's biggest boosters is Bob Gutierrez, office manager for Hanford's EDD.

By Eddie Lopez



W

HENEVER A SAILOR at nearby Lemoore Naval Air Base, near Hanford, Calif., decides to "swallow the anchor" (retire), he can rely on a free Career Awareness Program (CAP) to prepare him for civilian life.

CAP is the brainchild of Pat Ford, of the California Economic Development Department (EDD). It was initiated six years ago with EDD's blessing. And it works. Ford is a former Marine and member of Post 1994.

Sailors making the ship-to-shore transition are given instruction on writing job resumes and filling out job application forms. They experience

the pressure of a job interview and even may seek the advice of a clinical psychologist.

"Since the program was started, we've had more than 4,000 men and women go through it," Ford explained. "According to United States Navy sources, we've saved the government \$22.8 million. All it cost the government was \$79,000. In fact, we turned back \$21,000 of a \$100,000 grant, which is something you don't hear about every day."

CAP's effectiveness has become so widespread that Ford and his three female EDD-salaried counselors, Karen Pust, Margaret Chavarria and

Careers & Money

"Quite frankly, it's a terrific program," Gutierrez said in assessing CAP. "It has been our policy to advise people who are about to be released from active duty as to what the prevailing conditions are in the civilian job market."

"Ford has taken the program one step forward. He not only advises people who are about to be separated from the military as to what the conditions for jobs are, he actually assists them in the transition from military life to civilian life. He's not only offering advice, he's actually preparing them."

Three basic reasons why people decide to leave the military are, according to Ford, the feeling they can better themselves both monetarily and imagewise as civilians, dislike of long family separations that go with sea duty and the structured life of the service.

In other words, Ford says, "they've had it," for whatever reason. Thirty percent of all military personnel quit after one hitch.

The class motto is "Know Thyself." They all wear civvies, so there is no rank-pulling. And military jargon, which is often stylized in such abbreviations as TDY, DMZ, PX, and the like, is discouraged.

They are told in no uncertain terms by Ford and his staff that being an ex-serviceman is nothing special when competing with other civilians for a job.

"You've been locked in," Ford will sometimes shout to make his point. "Everything's been spelled out for us—black or white—by the military for you. But now you have to stop living in the past. You have to stop

putting limits on yourselves."

The thing that makes Ford swell with pride is that 64% of the people who have been counseled by CAP in the downtown Veterans Memorial Building have been able to find jobs on their own.

"That means without utilizing the services of the EDD," he emphasized, "or any other kind of job-finding agency. We've got so many students in class now—51 this week—that we

Kathi Vanek, left, learns of options available to her as she goes through a Career Awareness Program. Vicky Pojar has the answers for her.



don't have room for any more. We've had 12 CAP sessions in the first nine months of the year and there will be five more out at LNAS between now and Christmas."

If the job sounds stressful, it's one that Ford responds to with a modicum of modesty.

"I remember the first class we held," he said rather scornfully. "We had 20 guys and 18 of them were evaluators. It was a one-day course, for crying out loud. Since then, we've been monitored—are you ready for this?—55 times!"

Solid endorsements for the CAP by ex-students have come in.

"They teach you the little things not

to say or do during an interview," observed Orland Adams, of Portland, Ore., "because sometimes it's the little things that can keep you from landing a job."

Meanwhile, Ford and his staff are waiting for a new \$317,000 grant approval, either from the Department of Labor or the Department of Defense.

"They each claim it's the other guy's problem and in a sense they're both

Pat Ford, an ex-Marine and member of Post 1994, goes 1-on-1 with a member of one of his Career Awareness Programs in Hanford, Calif.

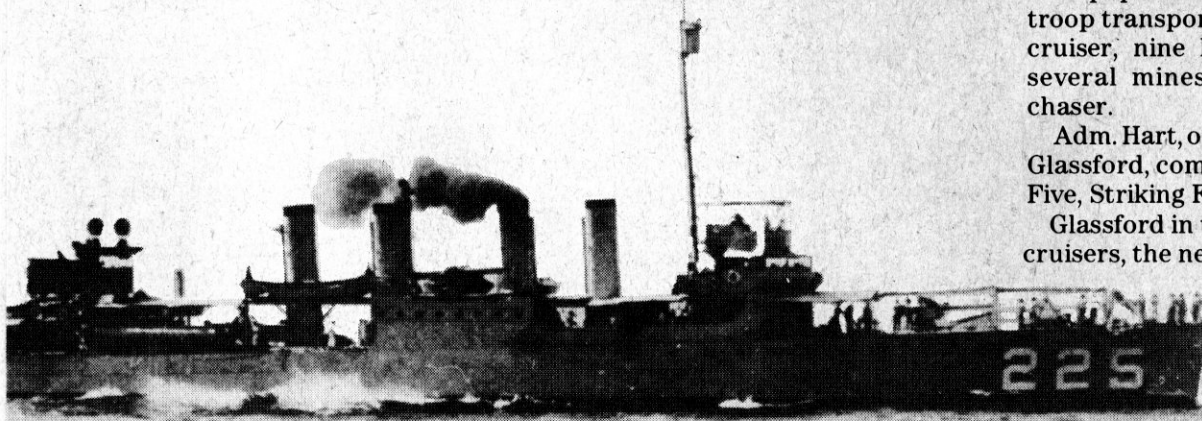


correct," Ford explained. "The Department of Labor is in charge of guys on active duty. The day they get out, however, they become a Department of Labor problem."

"So, you ask, who's responsible? We're saying they're both equally responsible, but in reality, the Department of Defense probably should foot the bill. But we don't care who pays for it, just as long as somebody does. We know that CAP is an excellent example of how state and federal government agencies can work together, helping people while at the same time saving money." ■

The writer is a reporter on the Fresno, Calif., Bee.

INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH



By Winston Jordan

OUT OF THE RAIN AND darkness they came, their bows smashing to froth the black seas of the Makassar Strait. Four old ships that looked like ghosts from the First World War. But this was not 1918. It was Friday, Jan. 23, 1942, and these ships were the American destroyers Ford, Pope, Parrott and Paul Jones. They were in column in that order, 300 yards apart. Except for tiny, shielded blue lights for the ship astern to steer by, they were blacked out, traveling at high speed.

Cdr. Paul Talbot, commander of Destroyer Division 59, aboard Ford, the lead ship, was officer in tactical command of this small force.

In the Pacific, in January, 1942, America's back was to the wall. The Navy's main battle force rested their bottoms on the coral floor of Pearl Harbor. Wake Island had fallen. Guam had fallen and the Japanese were pushing through the Philippines, proceeding southward in a rapid succession of amphibious operations. Each move took them about 400 miles nearer their objective, but never so far as to be unprotected by their

aircraft. Their goal was the oil fields of the Dutch East Indies. The papers were filled with the news of American ships being sunk.

What was left of the United States Asiatic Fleet had not been seen or heard from for weeks. Many wondered if it still existed. Some wondered how well it would fight. They would not have long to wonder.

On Tuesday morning, Jan. 20, Adm. Thomas C. Hart, Commander-in-Chief United States Asiatic Fleet, received an intelligence report of a Japanese invasion force, moving, it was believed, toward the Dutch oil fields on the east coast of Borneo. Probably at Balikpapan. This fleet consisted of 16 troop transports protected by a light cruiser, nine large new destroyers, several minesweepers and a sub-chaser.

Adm. Hart, ordered Rear Adm. W.A. Glassford, commander of Task Force Five, Striking Force, to respond.

Glassford in turn ordered two light cruisers, the new Boise and the aging Marblehead, along with six old four-stacker destroyers of World War I type, to rendezvous off Timor Island and

prepare to engage the enemy's invasion force.

But Boise struck an uncharted reef. An undetermined amount of damage was done to her bottom and she was ordered back to Java, escorted by one of the destroyers. Marblehead had developed trouble in one of her turbines and could make only 15 knots. Glassford decided to keep her and the destroyer Bulmer, whose boilers were beginning to salt, in position 90 miles south of Balikpapan to help cover the ships returning from the battle. If, of course, any ships did return.

Thus Talbot and his four destroyers were all that were left of the striking force. At 7:30 p.m. they passed Cape Mandar on Celebes abeam to starboard and turning northwest, aimed their bows directly toward Balikpapan and the enemy that awaited there.

These men knew what lay ahead. For four ancient ships, without radar, with old manually operated, unprotected 4 inch guns, to attack 16 transports, a cruiser and nine modern destroyers was nothing short of suicidal.

Cdr. Talbot peered ahead through the rain and darkness and thought of increasing speed:

Food was short, so the men stuffed themselves on crackers and corned beef, unsure of when they would eat again. Also if they were to be forced into the water, they wanted to ward off hunger for as long as possible.

Tired and wet, the men clung to their battle stations. But destroyermen are used to hanging on. They learn early that not to do so invites broken bones. Small arms were loaded and placed in sheltered spots about the deck. The men made mental notes of their location.

The 4-inch guns were checked and checked again. Not an easy thing on the dark, heaving, wet decks. The torpedoes and their tubes, which would be the main weapons in the coming fight, were gone over repeatedly. Below in the engine and boiler rooms, the burners and steam lines, along with everything else, were carefully checked.

The sailors knew that if they went into the water, there was no hope of rescue. At least not by anyone friendly. They had no air cover. They were going into the middle of a vastly superior force with little hope of coming out. They placed their wallets, cigarettes and other valuables in rubber receptacles, tied the ends and buttoned them in their shirt pockets under the heavy life jackets and prepared to be blown into the sea. Some prayed. All clung to the speeding, slamming vessels as they raced through the night.

About 8 p.m., a message from Adm. Hart was decoded and brought to Cdr. Talbot. It contained only one word, "Attack!"

Talbot increased speed to 27 knots and radioed his instructions. "Torpedo attack, hold gunfire until 'fish' are gone. Use initiative and prosecute the strike to your utmost."

At 11:13 p.m., a searchlight beam was seen, faraway below the horizon, playing faintly among the dark and shapeless rain clouds.

At 1:40 a.m., on the 24th, the searchlight beam was seen again. This time *much closer*.

The retreating Dutch had put the torch to their oil fields and these great fires were sighted at 2:12 a.m., as the rain slackened and the seas decreased to long rolling swells.

Suddenly at 2:35 a.m., the number one lookout in Ford reported, "Four destroyers dead ahead! In column,

passing from starboard to port. Distance 2,000 to 3,000 yards." Talbot had the Ford turned slightly to the right, followed by the others. As the last enemy ship passed, she challenged with a blue flashing light. The Americans ignored it and waited for the blast of her guns, but it never came.

At 2:45 a.m.; the dark shapes of ships could be made out against the fiery backdrop of burning oil fields. Approaching obliquely, Talbot's group bored in. Nearing torpedo range, he radioed, "Targets are transports and cruisers. Torpedo depth setting, eight and four feet. Expend all torpedoes, then commence fire with guns at targets of opportunity. Retirement course south."

Soon the thump...whoosh sound of torpedoes being fired was heard on the dark, canting decks of the destroyers. The battle had begun.

Parrott was first to launch, missing with all three torpedoes. She made a slight turn to port and missed with five more. Ford and Paul Jones each fired at the same ship. All thought it was a destroyer, but it was a minesweeper and all had missed. Ford had passed through the lines of transports, which were obviously anchored in two lines. Talbot turned to lead his column back through for another run. Parrott, before making her turn, fired three torpedoes at a target to port. Then as she rounded the turn, a terrific explosion actually rocked the attacking destroyers. That marked the end of the 3,500-ton transport Sumanoura Maru.

The enemy, now in confusion, thought they were under submarine attack, so silent were the destroyers. Some looked with searchlights for planes among the clouds. Others, guessing the truth but unable to tell friend from enemy, fired at both,

while Adm. Nishimura led his deadly, new destroyers out into the strait to look for submarines.

Talbot's column straightened out on its reverse course. Pope fired her last five torpedoes at a transport. Several of the other ships fired also. Tatsukami Maru went down.

Then the destroyermen heard a strange and terrible sound. They were speeding through water filled with the bobbing heads of men, rafts and boats from the first ship that had been sunk. The sounds were of dying cries of the men as they were run down by the destroyers, or when torpedoes were launched through their midst.

On they sped, launching torpedoes left and right. It was an eerie sight. With the burning oil fields providing flickering light and thick black smoke rolling across the scene, the destroyers wove in and out of the lines of anchored ships. Some of them were on fire. Then for Ford came a moment of near disaster. While trying to shift tanks, fuel suction and power were lost. Veering out of column to starboard, as the rules required, she rapidly lost speed as the others raced by continuing their attack.

Within minutes that must have seemed much longer, Ford's engine room crew had the problem solved and slowly the ship resumed course and speed. But now she was alone.

Over the radio, Parrott called, "Torpedoes expended. Request permission to open fire with guns." This was quickly followed by the same request from Pope and Paul Jones.

"Permission granted," answered Talbot. Now, at least he would know where they were. The flashes from their salvos appeared off to starboard. The Ford was clear to fire her last torpedoes.

continued on page 39

The Parrott, Pope and Paul Jones were making their gun attack on a southerly heading that would take them clear of the action, but Ford was heading north and the Japanese were aware now that they were under surface attack. Ford expended her remaining torpedoes and got a hit on a transport, then found herself in a hornet's nest. Her guns blazed out at targets all around her. Weaving and twisting, she made hits on another transport and watched it list heavily as she left it behind in the dark. Talbot would say later, "Every shot fired found its mark." Then Ford was hit near her stern. An oil drum was set on fire and some star shell boxes began to burn.

Four men were wounded and she was leaving a trail of fire that would make her a hard target to miss. The fires, however, were quickly put out and Ford turned south to the retirement course.

The four American destroyers had remained in the midst of the Japanese invasion fleet for more than an hour. They had killed an untold number of the enemy and sunk four troop transports and a 700-ton torpedo boat. They left only when every torpedo had been fired.

Ford's engineers put on all the speed they could. They tied down the safety valves to make them useless, and braced the vibrating steam lines with shoring timbers, a common practice when speed haste is required. Should one of these pipes break, a scalding death awaited them. With the weight of the torpedoes gone, they achieved an estimated 34 knots.

Dawn came with only an awareness that it was no longer dark. On they sped through the gray, early light, their wake stretching for six miles behind them, while all eyes searched astern for the enemy they felt sure would come. At 6 a.m., they sighted and joined the others. Column was formed, and because fuel was low, speed was reduced to 23 knots.

The crippled Marblehead and escort

continued on page 53



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Department Commanders-of-the-Month

November



DIV. I
Christopher Tsilis (3)
Illinois



DIV. II
Patrick Bohmer (3)
Minnesota



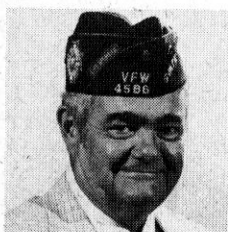
DIV. III
Max Tank, Jr. (3)
Wisconsin



DIV. IV
Casimir (Charles)
Lukoski (3)
Maryland



DIV. V
George E. McCracken
Virginia



DIV. VI
Alva D. Nash (2)
Louisiana



DIV. VII
Kenneth L. Nelson
South Dakota



DIV. VIII
Arthur Streed (2)
North Dakota



DIV. IX
Robert Smith (3)
Alaska



DIV. X
Edward Stewart
Hawaii

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Nov. 30, 1984.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 77.31%

| | | |
|----|--------------|-------|
| 1 | Alaska | 88.11 |
| 2 | South Dakota | 82.92 |
| 3 | Minnesota | 82.83 |
| 4 | Maryland | 82.69 |
| 5 | Virginia | 82.52 |
| 6 | Iowa | 82.09 |
| 7 | North Dakota | 81.57 |
| 8 | Wisconsin | 81.19 |
| 9 | Kansas | 81.14 |
| 10 | Michigan | 81.14 |
| 11 | Illinois | 81.00 |
| 12 | Indiana | 80.97 |
| 13 | Maine | 80.81 |
| 14 | Ohio | 80.72 |
| 15 | Nebraska | 80.57 |

| | | |
|----|----------------|-------|
| 16 | Vermont | 80.01 |
| 17 | Louisiana | 79.19 |
| 18 | Delaware | 79.12 |
| 19 | Florida | 79.08 |
| 20 | New Jersey | 78.55 |
| 21 | Missouri | 78.30 |
| 22 | Rhode Island | 78.15 |
| 23 | New York | 77.62 |
| 24 | California | 76.97 |
| 25 | Arkansas | 76.81 |
| 26 | Arizona | 76.30 |
| 27 | Colorado | 76.23 |
| 28 | West Virginia | 76.19 |
| 29 | Montana | 76.15 |
| 30 | Connecticut | 76.14 |
| 31 | Mississippi | 75.79 |
| 32 | Washington | 75.54 |
| 33 | Hawaii | 75.11 |
| 34 | Oregon | 74.83 |
| 35 | North Carolina | 74.81 |

| | | |
|------|----------------------|-------|
| 36 | New Mexico | 74.67 |
| 37 | Wyoming | 74.65 |
| 38 | Pennsylvania | 74.62 |
| 39 | New Hampshire | 74.48 |
| 40 | District of Columbia | 72.05 |
| 41 | Massachusetts | 71.96 |
| 42 | Kentucky | 71.90 |
| 43 | Alabama | 71.75 |
| 44 | Oklahoma | 71.70 |
| 45 | Idaho | 71.58 |
| 46 | Texas | 71.16 |
| 47 | Pacific Area | 70.79 |
| 48 | South Carolina | 70.45 |
| 49 | Georgia | 70.03 |
| 50 | Tennessee | 68.73 |
| 51 | Nevada | 68.33 |
| 52 | Panama Canal | 63.13 |
| 53 | Utah | 62.31 |
| LAST | Germany | 49.16 |

Marty



District Commanders-of-the-Month

November

DIV. I
District 8
Indiana
Wilford McDaniel (3)

DIV. II
District 1
Ohio
Joseph Frankowski

DIV. III
District 6
Kansas
Jack Krager (3)

DIV. IV
District 10
Iowa
Jean W. Wallace (3)

DIV. V
District 3
Louisiana
Stanley Breaux (3)

DIV. VI
District 4
Maine
Philip T. Clukey

DIV. VII
District 8
South Dakota
Allen Soesbe (3)

DIV. VIII
District 14
Arkansas
Perry Hickman (3)

(Parenthetical number indicates times Commander has won this honor.)

Post Commanders-of-the-Month

November

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Orbit Scott (3)

DIV. II
Post 2539
Mississippi
Clifford Horn (2)

DIV. III
Post 3962
Mississippi
Roy Colston

DIV. IV
Post 673
Indiana
Gerald S. Meyer (3)

DIV. V
Post 4809
Virginia
Walter G. Bryan (2)

DIV. VI
Post 8463
Florida
Nicholas A. Duva (2)

DIV. VII
Post 4667
Virginia
Marshall E. Guy (3)

DIV. VIII
Post 3282
Florida
Romano J. Caruso

DIV. IX
Post 7452
Illinois
John J. Mall

DIV. X
Post 1550
Indiana
Felix Knauer (2)

DIV. XI
Post 1616
New Jersey
Raymond Effinger

DIV. XII
Post 10252
Alaska
Vernon L. Jones (2)

DIV. XIII
Post 3244
Louisiana
Raymond Benoit

DIV. XIV
Post 2869
Arkansas
Robert G. Tucker

DIV. XV
Post 7721
Florida
Clarence J. Smuder

DIV. XVI
Post 5483
North Carolina
James C. Rich

DIV. XVII
Post 10210
Florida
Roy L. Kinney, Jr. (2)

DIV. XVIII
Post 109
Maine
Everett Dorr (2)

DIV. XIX
Post 10661
Louisiana
Evie A. Douget

DIV. XX
Post 2728
Kentucky
Larry Hicks (2)

(Parenthetical number indicates times Commander has won this honor.)

Safety Gets Boost From Post 1407

Post 1407 in Ferndale, Mich., takes safety seriously.

So much so that it embarked a few years ago on a program to honor school safety patrol boys and girls and stimulate their pride in being Americans.

Safety Chairman Kenneth R. Crafts has many letters of commendation from city leaders attesting to the program's effectiveness.

For example, last May, Mayor James B. Avery, of the Detroit suburb, wrote Crafts congratulating him on the "vital community service Post 1407 performs in its continuing sponsorship of the safety patrol program in our city."

"Speaking for all of us in authority in our community, I want to reinforce the fact that we applaud and fully

support your invaluable work in this area," Mayor Avery wrote.

"It is especially noteworthy, I think, that no child has been injured or killed in an area guarded by our Safety Patrols during the four years our VFW Post has been sponsoring patrol activities."

Police Chief Patrick T. Sullivan wrote that "we are sure that through their efforts (safety patrols), we have prevented injury and possibly even death to other children en route to and from school."

"I take great pleasure commending you as your Post 1407 is extremely active in community affairs, and we are very proud to be associated with you," Chief Sullivan concluded.

Last May the Ferndale City Council unanimously adopted a testimonial

resolution praising Post 1407 for its program and the dinner at which the patrols are honored.

"Ferndale's Paul W. Hornaday Post 1407, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary, are to be commended for their many community services and especially for conducting an annual safety program and awards dinner to recognize the fine young people on this patrol force," the resolution said. It was resolved that "Ferndale elected officials solidly support and have deep appreciation of the importance of volunteer safety patrol work and the fact that our local VFW Post and its Auxiliary recognize these fine young people."

Recalling the awards event concluding the 1983-84 year, Crafts

Post of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of Nov. 8, 1984

| Post Place No. | Location | 1984-85 Membership |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 1114 | Evansville, Ind. | 3,366 |
| 2 628 | Sioux Falls, S.D. | 2,034 |
| 3 3579 | Park Ridge, Ill. | 1,995 |
| 4 1308 | Alton, Ill. | 1,857 |
| 5 5555 | Richfield, Minn. | 1,746 |
| 6 360 | Mishawaka, Ind. | 1,703 |
| 7 47 | Uniontown, Pa. | 1,687 |
| 8 2539 | Gulfport, Miss. | 1,619 |
| 9 1146 | St. Clair Shores, Mich. | 1,607 |
| 10 131 | Lincoln, Neb. | 1,572 |
| 11 1296 | Bloomington, Minn. | 1,476 |
| 12 1064 | Huntington, W. Va. | 1,458 |
| 13 49 | Mobile, Ala. | 1,425 |
| 14 2290 | Manville, N.J. | 1,414 |
| 15 6704 | Mechanicsburg, Pa. | 1,367 |
| 16 6506 | Rosedale, Md. | 1,357 |
| 17 1273 | Rapid City, S.D. | 1,350 |
| 18 4372 | Odessa, Texas | 1,293 |
| 19 249 | Butler, Pa. | 1,285 |
| 20 1599 | Chambersburg, Pa. | 1,282 |

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|
| 21 367 | Joliet, Ill. | 1,270 |
| 22 3962 | Corinth, Miss. | 1,268 |
| 23 1989 | Indiana, Pa. | 1,254 |
| 24 401 | Albuquerque, N.M. | 1,254 |
| 25 2100 | Everett, Wash. | 1,234 |
| 26 6975 | Bristol, Va. | 1,226 |
| 27 969 | Tacoma, Wash. | 1,220 |
| 28 447 | Albert Lea, Minn. | 1,213 |
| 29 7987 | New Port Richey, Fla. | 1,208 |
| 30 6640 | Metairie, La. | 1,207 |
| 31 379 | Yakima, Wash. | 1,187 |
| 32 1736 | Alexandria, La. | 1,185 |
| 33 1275 | Lima, Ohio | 1,170 |
| 34 6240 | Russell, Kans. | 1,166 |
| 35 1621 | Janesville, Wis. | 1,150 |
| 36 2503 | Omaha, Neb. | 1,146 |
| 37 9619 | Morningside, Md. | 1,144 |
| 38 4057 | Tupelo, Miss. | 1,141 |
| 39 5632 | St. Louis Park, Minn. | 1,127 |
| 40 549 | Tucson, Ariz. | 1,126 |
| 41 4087 | Davidson, Minn. | 1,118 |
| 42 1810 | Brentwood, Pa. | 1,105 |
| 43 3382 | Kingsport, Tenn. | 1,105 |

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|
| 44 1079 | Elyria, Ohio | 1,099 |
| 45 2704 | South Omaha, Neb. | 1,092 |
| 46 733 | Mason City, Iowa | 1,088 |
| 47 3851 | Carmi, Ill. | 1,082 |
| 48 2199 | Joliet, Ill. | 1,071 |
| 49 1003 | Jefferson City, Mo. | 1,067 |
| 50 6251 | Cheektowaga, N.Y. | 1,062 |
| 51 283 | Kingston, Pa. | 1,061 |
| 52 1865 | Kenosha, Wis. | 1,056 |
| 53 1650 | Topeka, Kans. | 1,050 |
| 54 5263 | Fort Sill, Okla. | 1,045 |
| 55 53 | Jamestown, N.Y. | 1,042 |
| 56 7119 | Indianapolis, Ind. | 1,030 |
| 57 4903 | Tucson, Ariz. | 1,024 |
| 58 295 | South St. Paul, Minn. | 1,022 |
| 59 501 | Denver, Colo. | 1,021 |
| 60 7330 | Oakville, Conn. | 1,015 |
| 61 6874 | Lemon Grove, Calif. | 1,014 |
| 62 6796 | Dallas, Texas | 1,012 |
| 63 6896 | Detroit, Mich. | 1,012 |
| 64 2529 | Sandusky, Ohio | 1,008 |
| 65 1000 | Independence, Mo. | 1,008 |
| 66 23 | Lebanon, Pa. | 1,000 |

National Aides-de-Camp

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during the month of November,

1984. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new or 50 reinstated members, or any combination of both totalling 50.

Lowell Keslar, Jr., Post 9400, Phoenix,

Ariz.; Thomas W. Clark, Jr., Post 5225, West Memphis, Ark.; Michael J. Salome, Post 3982, Santa Clara, Calif.; Al Walsh, Post 6694, Baltimore, Md.; and Sanford Rosenthal, Post 3586, Salt Lake City, Utah.

writes that the program "is bigger and better than ever." For the awards presentation, school officials, city leaders, police and VFW and Auxiliary leaders from all echelons of the Department of Michigan were present at the dinner that attracted 185 persons.

Crafts recalls that the Ferndale Police Department first approached Post 1407 to sponsor the safety patrol program.

He has advice to other Post officers who might be interested in such a program.

First, he says, the Post must contact the school principal and teacher in charge of safety to explain the program. Police cooperation also is essential.

McDonald's restaurant in Ferndale helps out, too, Crafts says, by giving each winner a hamburger, fries and a drink. The trophy winner receives a \$10 certificate. Each winner's picture is placed in the restaurant's window.

Luxury Lanes bowling alley gives each winner three free games of bowling, use of bowling shoes and a cheeseburger with a large drink.

Crafts says each winner receives a citation, and the trophy winner is

given a T-shirt.

"Our Post puts on this program for less than \$500 a year, and the Ladies Auxiliary cooperates with us financially," Crafts says.

"This program is very easy to put on after you once have it started," he says. "I have nine schools that I go to and the teachers are as much for this program as the children are."

Crafts is eager to share his experience with persons in other VFW Posts in hopes that they will adopt the safety patrol program. He can be contacted at 758 Silman, Ferndale, Mich. 48220.



Venus Howard, of Jefferson School, receives her award from Crafts for being "safety of the month".

National Recruiter Recognition 1984-85

Names of comrades who have Life Memberships in the first quarterly drawing in the National Recruiter Recognition Program instituted by Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron are announced.

Under this program, comrades who sign up new or reinstating members for 1984-85 may qualify for the award.

Each new or reinstating member receives a card from National Headquarters to return with the name, state and Post number of the member who recruited him.

Winners in the first quarterly drawing are:

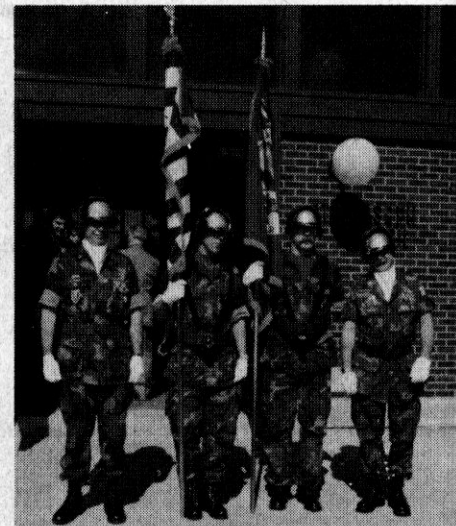
Percy W. Smith, Post 9457, Oklahoma; Churchwell Alderman, Jr., 1115, Virginia; Thomas McCarthy, Post 3752, California; George Biagini, Post 3557, Pennsylvania; Wayne F. Brown, Post 7969, Virginia; James R. Hughes, Post 1833, Oregon; Lawrence Gilpatrick, Post 7642, Maine; Everett P. Jacobs, Post 280, Missouri; Ralph T. Partin, Post 9986, Florida; and Vernon D. Youngs, Post 5092, New York.



Past Michigan Department Commander Eric Halvorsen receives the Board of Managers' Award from the Michigan Veterans' Facility. A member of the board from 1971 to 1984, he is only the third person to be so honored.



Commander Ray Engblade, of Post 5742, Cotter, Ark., unveils a plaque honoring Harold Ben Smith and Kenneth L. Johnson, the two from Cotter for whom the Post is named. Both were killed in WWII.

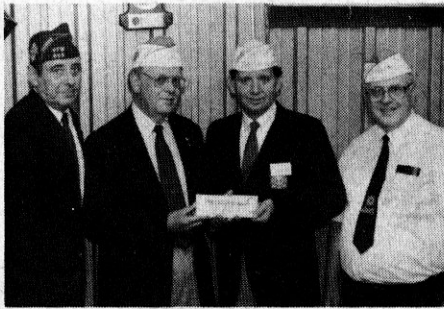


Vietnam veterans' Color Guard of Post 8664, Camillus, N.Y., prepares to enter St. Joseph's Church for the Mass honoring all veterans. The Color Guard were honored guests at the service.

What Our Guys Are Doing

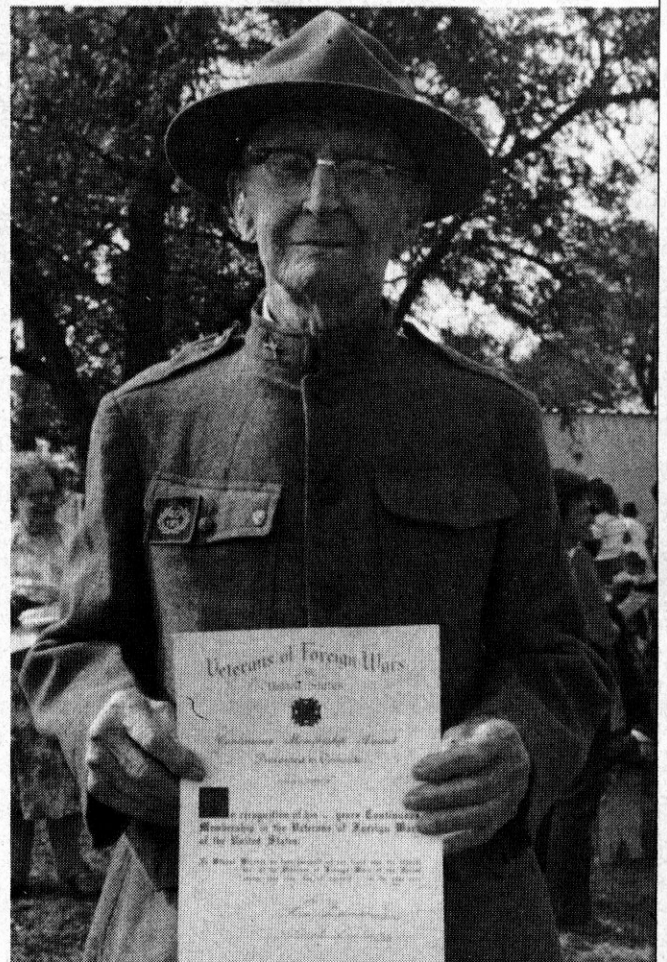


Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab meet with Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh.



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron receives key to Marion, Va., from Vice Mayor Sam Burkett, a life member of Post 4667, as Department Commander George McCracken and Post Commander Marshall Guy look on. By last Aug. 20, the Post had reached 90% of its 1984-85 membership quota.

William J. Schweitzer, of Ransom, Kans., is honored with a VFW Certificate of Merit and 40-year VFW pin as the Post's only WWI member. He is a charter member of the Post.



Past Commander Lloyd Baldwin, of Post 3905, Kaufman, Texas, presents Police Chief Robert Harris with the Kenneth Martin Appreciation Award.



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron cuts the ribbon for the new home of Post 2272, Durand, Mich. With him are Department Commander Dino Costantini and Post Commander Cliff Frederick.

Recruiting Vietnam Veterans

By Charles E. Newcomb

B

UT YOURS WAS THE FIRST generation to lose a war for this country!" slurred the inebriated man, as he leaned precariously close to me at the bar. "In all our history no other generation allowed that to happen!"

Those words made me vow never to return to a VFW Post again, even though I was a Life Member and had never before experienced a similar incident.

I had stopped in only to donate a brass bell for the bar of the Post's new building. I wasn't a member of the Post, but it was in a city where I owned a small business, and I wanted to contribute something to its opening. The conversation began in a friendly tone, but quickly deteriorated when the intoxicated man next to me discovered I was a Vietnam veteran. Admittedly, this incident was not typical of what one expects in such surroundings. For me, it was exactly what I feared would someday happen and was one of the reasons why I was somewhat reluctant to join the VFW in the first place. But I did back in 1977 out of respect and admiration for my father-in-law. He was an active member and wanted to share his positive experience with me. I was honored that he felt proud to present me to his friends—not only as his son-in-law, but also as a combat veteran like themselves.

From the outset I felt as though I stuck out like a sore thumb. The obvious difference between my age and that of most of the others made me feel uncomfortable, even though everyone seemed to be going out of his way to make me feel welcome. I noticed that, not unlike other fraternal organizations, much of the activity appeared to center around the bar. Since I was in law enforcement at the time, I suspected this could present problems. Then, too,

like many Vietnam veterans then, I felt uncomfortable about discussing my experiences in the war, and in a gathering such as this I knew the topic was inevitable. In all candor, had it not been for the feelings I had for my father-in-law, I would not have joined the VFW back then.

Several years have passed since that unfortunate experience in the Post I was visiting, and once again I have begun to participate in the activities of my own Post. I've had a chance to mature enough to realize that words mumbled by one drunk do not reflect the attitude of the majority of other VFW members.

I have seen the good things the VFW does on a daily basis to support not only the veterans of other conflicts, but those of my own generation as well. And I have seen the ranks of those with whom I once served

"I've had a chance to mature enough to realize that words mumbled by one drunk do not reflect the attitude of the majority of other VFW members."

growing steadily in the VFW. I no longer feel the slightest bit uncomfortable amidst my comrades, and I have come to feel as much a part of the distinguished gathering as anyone else who earned a place in it.

This increased interest, on my part as well as that of others of my generation, as I see it, can be attributed to many facets of the organization. Certainly the continued support the VFW has given us through federal and local programs has contributed significantly to this trend. The unpressured persuasion our senior comrades kept applying to us to participate has paid off, too. But more than this, VFW members have shown us they really do care. For a

great many of us, this was the first sign that our efforts did not go unrecognized.

For more than a decade it was a fact that many Vietnam veterans felt segregated from the rest of society. Americans were trying to forget our unpopular war, and they didn't want to hear of our plight. Some in our ranks became militant in their outrage. This reaction served only to make things worse for our image and drove the rest of us deeper into our self-imposed isolation. For most of us, it seemed the best thing to do was to write off that part of our lives. Often times this was a futile effort and only complicated matters. Each of us handled our predicament in a different way. Many, like me, bit our lips and dealt with the nightmares as best as we could.

But, as has happened in other eras of our nation's history, a situation developed which made our people stand back-to-back once more. When the Iranian "students" took over the American embassy in Tehran, Americans experienced a rekindling of the flame of nationalism. This "new nationalism," as it has been called, made Americans take a second look at our Armed Forces and the men and women who once served in them. The events of the 1960s and 70s rapidly began to grow distant in our minds.

At long last, the hurt Vietnam veterans felt that was caused by the rejection of our peers and perceived persecution by the media began to diminish. We began to emerge from our shells and talk openly of our experiences without fear of further contempt. When the memorial to our fallen comrades was dedicated in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day, 1982, we saw an America we had dreamed of for a long, long time. We can now grieve openly for our comrades who never got the chance to

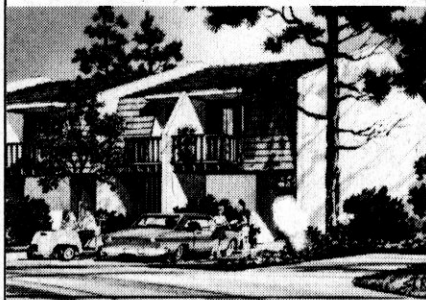
continued on page 63

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I N T H E F I E L D

Four more VFW members have received medals after long waits.

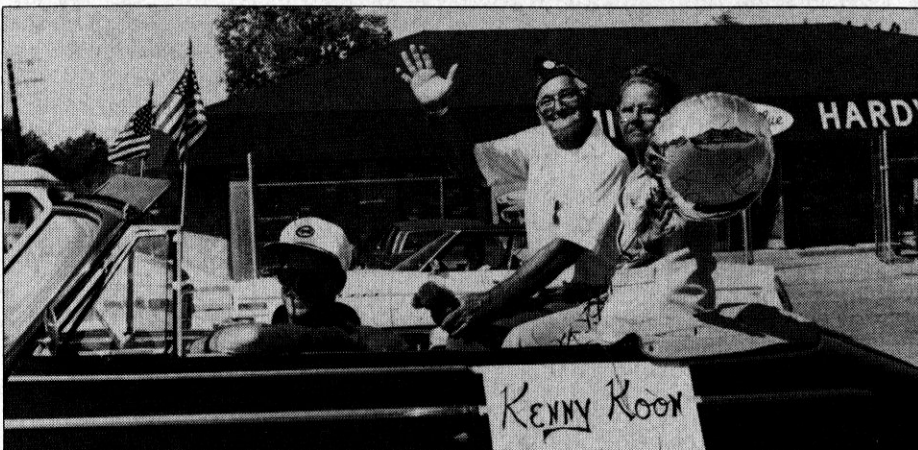
They are Kenneth Koon, a member of Post 1552, Summitville, Ind., who was awarded a belated Bronze Star with Combat V; Paul (Red) Kline, a member of Post 8993, Reading, Pa.; Brady Leveridge, of Post 4136, Eastland, Texas, and Joseph L. Drea, of Post 4004, Monahans, Texas, who received Purple Hearts.

Koon, a World War II member of the 2nd Marine Division, received the Bronze Star for his role in the amphibious assault on Tanambo in the Solomon Islands on Aug. 8, 1942.

Kline, a World War II veteran of the

Drea was wounded near Naples, Italy, in October, 1943, during an attack by German planes as he manned a .50 caliber machine gun. Frequently on detached service with British or French units, Drea says his records were often misplaced. He enlisted the help of the VFW Washington Office, which succeeded in getting his award for him.

When he was presented with the medal almost 41 years to the day after he was wounded, Drea received his 40-year VFW pin and Purple Heart from Texas Past Department Commander Emmet A. Stelzer. He is Ward County Veterans' Service Officer.



16th Infantry, 1st Division, had to wait 40 years for his, while Leveridge, a World War I Marine, was awarded his 66 years late. Drea's was 41 years late.

Kline was wounded in March, 1943, when his company encountered Italians in Tunisia. Shrapnel was removed from his knee at an artillery unit's field hospital, but his award got bogged down in red tape until Rep. Gus Yatron intervened. Kline took part in eight campaigns in the ETO.

Leveridge, serving with the Marines on the Western Front, was wounded in 1918 by artillery fire and later evacuated to a hospital in Paris. Rep. Charles Stenholm aided Leveridge in obtaining the Purple Heart when he learned there was no record of his being awarded the medal.

Drea also is Post 4004 Chaplain as well as Texas's District 25 Chaplain.

For the ninth year, Post 7545, Tonawanda, N.Y., honored World War I veterans with a Veterans Day observance that attracted 13 WWI men from the whole area. Speakers included Erie County Council Commander Tony Pietruszka, Post Commander Jack Isham, Auxiliary County Council President Frances McDonald and Post 7545's Auxiliary President Lois Schroeder. Some of the veterans were driven to the Post event by members. Two were too young for the service during that war but lied about their ages to get in. Buffalo News reporter Bob Curran singled out for special praise Jan Meyer who has coordinated the event since its inception.

Post 889, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, has been especially active in promoting the cause of the POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia.

Commander Edward Schubert and Auxiliary President Rae Larson obtained a proclamation from Mayor Jim Fromm declaring last July 20 as POW/MIA Recognition Day. Then on July 20 a public ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial in connection with the POW/MIA issue.

Finally on Sept. 6 to 10, Post and Auxiliary members manned a booth at the Kootenai County Fair and obtained 490 signatures for the National League of Families' petition to Hanoi for an accounting of the missing in action.

Oklahoma State Service Officer Tom Wilkerson sponsored a banquet recently at which Mrs. Virginia M. Simons, of the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City, was honored.

Dr. Walter H. Whitcomb, director of the center, presented her with a VFW award naming her as the Outstanding VA Employee of the Year.

Wilkerson said, "Her devotion to her duties reached far beyond the call of duty" especially in making sure that veterans kept their medical appointments.

QM Jack F. Mallory, of Post 1651, Pasco, Wash., has made sure that Washington Cemetery in Pasco has sufficient U.S. Flags for a suitable Avenue of Flags.

Last January he began his one-man campaign and by April he had completed it after sending out more than 300 requests for contributions for the purchase of 76 Flags and standards to businesses, other organizations and friends.

In the process, he travelled at least 300 miles and worked six hours a day on the project that resulted in \$2,100 in donations.

Culmination was a Memorial Day program covered by three television stations and the local newspaper. The speaker was Rep. Sid Morrison (Wash.) and representatives of the Armed Forces also participated.

"I am happy to state that patriotism is growing by leaps and bounds around here," Mallory writes.

Post 4164, Caro, Mich., recently presented Vernon McConnell, of Cass City, Mich., with a Life Membership and several mementos as a World War I veteran. "These guys are spoiling me rotten, but I love it," he said. Only 33 out of 257 in his WWI outfit survive.

Home of Post 933, Mt. Vernon, Wash., recently was the scene of its 28th annual senior citizens' picnic. More than 200 residents of area nursing homes were treated to a wide variety of area delicacies and entertainment by the Old Time Fiddlers Association that draws its musicians from a five-county region and the youthful Pistols and Petticoats dancers from Everett. More than 35 members of the Post and Auxiliary worked to make the event a success. They and Draper Valley Farms donated the food.

Nisei Post 8985 played host to 450 Issei (natives of Japan) parents for the 25th year recently. The event was financed by the Post's ongoing paper drive, which annually nets from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Members of Post-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 250 served the dinner and generally assisted. Among the honorees were four Gold Star parents. The son of one was killed during the relief of the 36th Division's "lost battalion" and the Gold Star was presented to her in a relocation camp. A Post spokesperson said the dinner is given each year to express thanks to the parents "because, having seen the tremendous adjustments they endured, we can never do too much for them."

Post 4868, Clear Lake, Iowa, began with a large donation the town's project to establish a fire museum, which it is planned will house the city's 1924 Ahrens Fox fire engine and other antique equipment. The museum will be in a 1920-style building being completed by fire fighters. A foundation has offered to contribute \$10,000 if the community raises \$20,000 for the \$30,000 museum.

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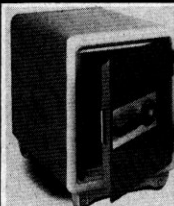
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Conn. Vietvet Thanks Service Officers

This letter from Gregory J. Topliff, of Hartford, Conn., is self-explanatory.

I am writing this letter of thanks to my VFW representatives Rene Belanger and George Becker, of the Hartford, Conn., office.

I have been on a total disability for six years. I was severely wounded in Vietnam, and the wounds resulted in back surgery.

The VA allowed me only a 30% rating for a few years and dropped it

to 20%.

In 1979, I reinjured the same area of my back that was originally operated on. I was given a 40% rating while being totally disabled.

Through the timely efforts of Rene Belanger, I was finally increased to 60%, still to fight for 100% unemployment. After a year and a half, I was finally granted my 100% rating.

Rene Belanger and George Becker deserve some kind of recognition for

their efforts. It is not every day that a 100% rating is given out.

I cannot express the gratitude I have for my VFW officers. Without their dedication, I am sure people like me would be long forgotten.

Please let the other veterans know that the VFW is working for the veterans. It takes persistence and a little patience to accomplish a lot.

(Comrade Topliff's address in Hartford is 938 Wethersfield Ave., #1. Zip is 06114.)

M E M B E R B E N E F I T S

VFW Sponsored Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan Meets 1985 Medicare Challenge

Each year since its beginning, Medicare deductibles have increased heaving more of the health care cost burden onto the shoulders of those eligible for benefits.

The 1985 Part A deductible is \$400! That is more than 12% over last year's \$356—over 31% since 1983. Plus you now have to pay 12% more for days 61 through 90 in the hospital. And if you decide to use up your lifetime reserve, you will be paying over 12% more (\$200 a day) for days 91 through 150.

How much does all this add up to? Here's an example of what it could cost you if you were seriously ill or injured and hospitalized for 150 days:

Part A deductible: You must pay before Medicare benefits begin

..... \$400

Days 61 through 90: Medicare pays all but \$100 a day

.....\$3,000

Days 91 through 150: If you use your one-time only lifetime reserve, Medicare pays all but \$200 a day

TOTAL\$15,400

(Total does not include expense for first three pints of blood, if necessary; private duty nurse, the 20% of reasonable charges for surgeons' and doctors' visits in the hospital or the \$75 yearly Part B deductible.)

This example of an extended hospital stay illustrates the important point that National Headquarters wants all members eligible for Medicare to understand. Medicare is good, but it can leave a burdensome share of the hospital and medical bills for you to pay.

That is why the VFW-sponsored Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan was developed. This exclusive Plan was designed for VFW members and their eligible spouses to help protect against the financial hardship these non-covered medical expenses can cause.

It pays the \$400 Part A deductible, \$100 a day for days 61 through 90, \$200 a day for days 91 through 150 (whether you use your one-time only Medicare lifetime reserve or not) and

pays for things that Medicare never pays for like private duty nursing, prescription drugs in or out of the hospital and immunizations. It also pays benefits for ambulance service, surgery, surgeons' and doctors' visits, confinement in a skilled nursing facility and even the \$75 yearly Part B deductible that many similar plans do not pay.

What is most important, this Plan has a built-in expansion provision which automatically adjusts benefits every time Medicare benefits are changed. This provision guarantees that no matter what happens to Medicare benefits in the future, the VFW-sponsored Medicare Supplement Insurance Plan will provide the right amount of coverage necessary to help you protect your financial future.

continued on page 52

MEN, isn't it time for you to come out of the ^{water} closet?

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PROSTAZINC® and PROSTAZINC® FORTE

There is evidence to the fact that the zinc content in the healthy prostate is quite high.

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It may be that good zinc nutrition is important to prostate health.

Prostazinc and Prostazinc Forte are two nutritional supplements with emphasis on the zinc content, especially formulated for the adult male.

The recommended daily intake via nutritional supplements is 15 mg. daily, but higher amounts are frequently used.

In an individual found to be deficient of this valuable mineral, it normally takes 60 to 75 days using daily zinc supplements to achieve significant results.

Prominent signs of zinc deficiency in man include loss of appetite, retarded body growth, slow wound healing, decreased taste acuity and skin lesions.

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Especially at night; usually accompanied by less force and smaller urinary stream.

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Member Benefits

continued from page 51

Another important feature is that as long as you are a VFW member eligible for Medicare, you cannot be turned down for coverage.

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Many thousands of VFW members and their spouses are already enrolled for protection. The plan is now in its third year. National Headquarters is committed to a continued effort to make sure all members eligible for Medicare get the opportunity to enroll for this valuable plan.

This Medicare Supplement is the only one of its kind to earn the Official VFW Seal of Approval for quality, fair pricing and service after the sale. It is fully endorsed and recommended to VFW members eligible for Medicare.

Members who have not yet enrolled will soon receive in the mail a personalized information kit and enrollment form. If you are eligible and do not receive your information, simply detach and mail your completed request coupon from the advertisement in this issue. Or, if you prefer, call Joyce Bradford toll free: 1-800-821-2606 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Central Time, any business day. In Missouri, call collect 816-561-2338. The information is free and there is no risk or obligation on your part.

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Bulmer limped northward to meet them and provide what cover they could.

Unknown to Talbot and his brave group who were maintaining radio silence during withdrawal, the whole action had been viewed through the periscope of the K-18, a Dutch submarine. The submarine's captain radioed the joyful news of a victory to Central Allied Command. Adms. Hart and Glassford were elated.

At 8 a.m., Talbot's four ships joined the Marblehead and Bulmer. Had it been the practice then, signal flags probably would have snapped from the Marblehead's yard, "Tare, Victor, George" (TVG) meaning "well done." Never given lightly, the accolade would have come from Rear Adm. Glassford to Talbot and his four old destroyers.

In looking back one might say perhaps it was not a great victory. But it *was* a victory, when on every hand the U.S. had been losing.

For the first time since the Spanish American War, the United States Navy had been tried in a surface engagement. In the coming weeks, the war would become worse for this country, much worse, before it would get better. But because of the bravery of Cdr. Talbot and the men in his destroyers, those who had doubted would no longer wonder about the fighting spirit of the U.S. Navy.

On March 1, just five weeks after the Battle of Balikpapan, the USS Pope (DD 225) was sunk in the Java Sea. The other three made it back to the States and conversion. On May 2, 1944, the Parrott was rammed by a merchantman in Boston harbor and was too heavily damaged to be repaired.

Thus, having served long and well, Ford, Parrott and Paul Jones ended their days on the scrap heap at war's end.

As a result of this action, Cdr. Talbot and the commanding officers of the four destroyers were awarded Navy crosses.

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Command Post

continued from page 4

Equally forthright was Sen. Cranston, who also was confident that Congress would never accept proposals such as those under study.

"Enactment of this drastic restriction would be the end of the VA health care system as we know it," he said. "Non-service-connected care is essential for the operation of a cost-effective, comprehensive VA health care system.

"Just two years ago, we enacted a provision I proposed declaring it the policy of the United States that the Veterans Administration...shall maintain a comprehensive, nationwide health care system for the direct provision of quality health care services to eligible veterans..."

"I certainly will not retreat from that policy—neither, I am sure, will a majority of members in either the House of Representatives or the Senate."

Although he said he was unable to comment on VA budget speculation, Administrator Harry N. Walters told VFW Service Officers meeting in Kansas City on Dec. 3 that he had

heard talk of cutting benefits overall for the "middle class," but he did not think veterans using VA hospitals could be considered "middle class." He added the proper persons to contact to protect VA benefits are one's Representative and Senators.

According to the New York Times account and as of this late November writing, President Reagan is undecided on whether to include the Grace Commission recommendations on veterans' health care in his budget proposal to Congress. This is a hopeful note.

In this connection, it would be well to cite the 1984 Republican platform references to veterans:

"Veterans have earned their benefits. These must not be taken away...We must prepare to meet the needs of aging veterans...We are making major strides in improving health care for veterans...VA hospital construction has expanded to meet community needs, and benefits for disabled veterans have been improved."

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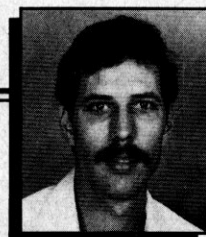
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The need to stop right now any moves by fiscal ax-wielders to begin hacking away at VA health care is especially urgent when one realizes that in the year 2000 the number of veterans over 65 will peak at 9 million—three times the 1980 total. In 1990 half the American men 65 or older will be eligible for VA medical benefits.

The 9 million in 2000 would include World War I centenarians, World War II veterans in their mid-70s, slightly younger Korean War veterans and even Vietnam veterans who were in their late 30s when that era ended.

So this is an issue that strikes at veterans of all wars—up to now at least—in which the United States has participated in this century.

While we in the VFW—and indeed it is hoped all veterans—are concerned about the future of VA health care, we are no less anxious about the POW/MIA issue.

This Jan. 27 marks the 12th year since the signing of the Paris Peace Accords that ended direct United

States involvement in the Southeast Asia war.

One of the provisions of the accords was that the Communists would return all the American prisoners they held and account for the some 2,500 Americans missing in action.

Aside from the prisoners released after the agreement was signed, the Vietnamese Communists have returned the remains of only 11 missing Americans and these in the past year or so.

The VFW is firm in its position that all the missing be accounted for by the Vietnamese and any prisoners still held be returned. Remember, live sightings have been reported.

Last October high level discussions were held on these issues between American and Vietnamese representatives, and an additional one is planned probably for later this month.

The families of these men have suffered too long. Now is the time to resolve the question and it is time the Vietnamese, in the name of humanity, keep their part of the bargain. ■

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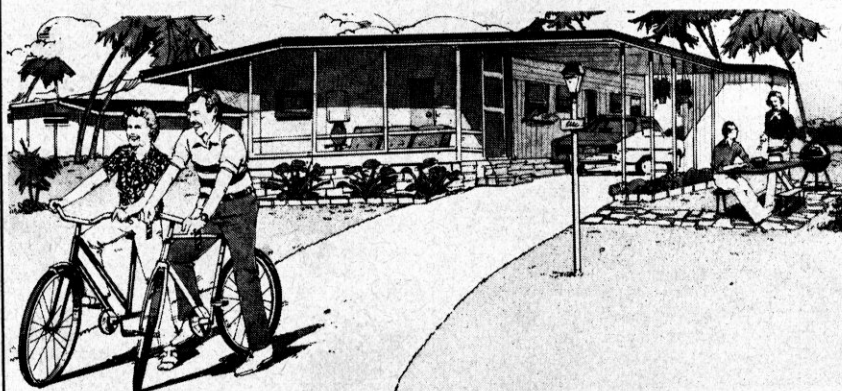
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VIETNAM

Vietnam: The Battle Comes Home, photographs by Gordon Baer, edited by Nancy Howell-Koehler, Morgan and Morgan, Inc., \$16.95 softbound, 112 pages. A photographic record of post-traumatic stress with selected essays, this volume contains 68 photographs, including several taken during the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Dedication in Washington, D.C., in 1982. The text traces the history of post-traumatic stress disorder as it developed after the Vietnam War.

Conversations with the Enemy by Winston Groom and Duncan Spencer, Penguin Books, \$7.95 softbound, 523 pages. The story of controversial Vietnam POW Bobby Garwood, who spent 14 years in captivity and upon his release by the Viet Cong faced a court martial for collaboration with the enemy.

Dau: A Novel of Vietnam by Ed Dodge, Macmillan Pub., \$13.95, 288 pages. Morgan Preston, an Air Force crewman on an in-country mobility team, loses his innocence, his girlfriend, his buddies and, finally, his mind.

WORLD WAR II

Reinhard Heydrich by Edouard Calic, Morrow, \$15.95, 272 pages. The writer contends that Heydrich, "the most satanic of all the Nazi leaders," masterminded many of the Nazis' schemes, including the massacre of the Jews and the invasion of Poland.

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H.H.I., 1984

R E C E N T B O O K S

The Secret Army by Gen. Tadeusz Bor-Komorowski, Battery Press, \$18.95, 407 pages. These are the memoirs of the leader of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, the futile attempt by the Poles to liberate their capital from the Germans as the Russians waited on the other side of the Vistula River for them to be wiped out and Warsaw destroyed. Bor-Komorowski and his Polish Home Army were authentic heroes of World War II.

A Time for Trumpets by Charles B. MacDonald, Morrow, \$19.95, 712 pages. One thought the subject of the Battle of the Bulge had long ago been exhausted, but MacDonald, a veteran of the Ardennes himself and master of the language, has dipped deeply into new material to make the events come to life.

Order of Battle: U.S. Army, World War II, by Shelby L. Stanton, Presidio, \$60, 621 pages. This is an invaluable reference for anyone seriously interested in World War II or any veteran of it who wants to learn more about the unit in which he served.

Hitler's Fortress Cherbourg, William B. Breuer, Stein and Day, \$19.95, 274 pages. The battle for this vital Normandy port city was a bloody one, but its capture was vital to the success of the Allied invasion of France.

Operation Barbarossa by Bryan I. Fugate, Presidio, \$22.50, 415 pages. Jealousies and rivalries among his generals were more disastrous to Hitler's plans to capture Moscow than the weather.

CIVIL WAR

The End of an Era, edited by William C. Davis, Doubleday, \$39.95, 496 pages. This sixth and final volume in the Image of War: 1861-1865 series is, like the first five, replete with never-before published pictures. Caption on one sums it all up: "They (the soldiers) had lived the last days of American innocence."

GENERAL INTEREST

Wallenberg: The Man in the Iron Web by Elenore Lester, Prentice-Hall, \$6.95 softbound, 183 pages. A biography of the Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, focusing on his perilous struggle to wrest thousands of Budapest Jews from the Nazi extermination machine.

Julius Caesar: The Pursuit of Power by Ernie Bradford, Morrow, \$17.95, 312 pages. Military genius, poet, orator, Julius Caesar proves that ambition and the quest for power were the same 2,000 years ago as they are now.

Jane's Spaceflight Directory, edited by Reginald Turnill, Jane's Publishing Co., \$60, 311 pages. This is the first comprehensive guide to the past, present and future activities of the world's space powers, from Argentina to the USSR.

AIR FORCE

(Including Army air units prior to 1947)

USSTAF, Eastern Command, HQ & HQ Sqdn. (USSR, Pyratin, Ukraine, August 1944)—Seeking anyone who served with me, was hospitalized with me or treated me at the field hospital in Pyratin.—Reidar F. Sand, POB 757, Neskowin, OR 97149.

321st Armament Electronics Sqdn. (McCoy AFB, Fla.)—Seeking anyone who remembers my heart attack while on duty in Dispatch Section 1958; also Col. James Perry, Sqdn. CO.—Charles C. Leaghty, 6108 Wooded Acres, Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

775th Tec School Sqdn. (Lowrey Field 2)—Seeking DeNaley, DeCava and anyone else who remembers me going to Buckley Field Hospital with pneumonia in October 1943; also Rish, Rosey, Mosley, Pritchard and Meir if they remember me failing altitude chamber and spending weeks at Tyndall Field in December 1943; Apodiauks, Bussinger, Krausen, Berkovitch and Gibson if they remember my cough and fever at Mitchell before we went overseas.—Alden F. Moyer, 56 Vashiti Way, Medford, OR 97501.

ALL BRANCHES

Korea & Vietnam—Seeking any veteran diagnosed as having systemic lupus and/or discoid lupus—Thomas E. Murray, POB 91476, Long Beach, CA 90809.

ARMY

11th Inf. Trng. Bn., Co. B, 3d Pltn. (Camp Wheeler, Ga., Dec. 6, 1944-Jan. 9, 1945)—Seeking anyone who took induction exam on Dec. 6,

1944 at Harrisburg, New Cumberland, Pa. and remembers me being hard of hearing; also anyone from Camp Wheeler who remembers me being hard of hearing after an anti-tank mine explosion.—Clyde R. Orr, Willow Brook Village Box 93, Duncansville, PA 16635.

Ft. Chaffee, Ark., & Ft. Benning, Ga. (1948-51)—Seeking anyone taking basic training at Ft. Chaffee and later training at Ft. Benning with me.—Willie W. (Bill) Baker, 405 W Locust, Sayre, OK 73622.

514th AAA TC, 10th Army (Okinawa, WW II)—Seeking anyone who recalls me being hospitalized suffering from a concussion and paralysis as a result of a land mine explosion.—Antone (Tony or Pappy) Gomes, 28 Carver St., Raynham, MA 02767.

35th Div., 134th Inf., 2d Bn., HQ Co., Wire Section (Aachen, Germany)—Seeking anyone who knew I had my hearing effected due to a concussion from a rocket shell.—Frank W. Oniski, 231 N Hamilton Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601.

251st Remount, Troop A (Townsville, Australia, Sept. 1944)—Seeking anyone who remembers me being injured by a horse.—Wayne Gribble, POB 0670, Wolf Point, MT 59201.

43d Inf. Div., 192d FA Bn. (New Caledonia, 1943)—Seeking anyone who remembers my injuring my back while loading ships.—John Cogswell, 9730 S 49th Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

106th AAA Gun Bn., Btry. B (Salerno), 57th Evac. Hosp., 21st Gen. Hosp. (Naples) & 124th AAA Gun Bn.—Seeking anyone who knew of the injuries to my back and right leg.—Claude E. Mahaffey, 608 Orange St., Auburndale, FL 33823.

1st Inf. Div., 1st Eng. Bn., Co. A (Vietnam, Feb. 1967-Oct. 1968)—Seeking anyone in the company who remembers me when I was injured in mortar and rocket attack in Feb. 1968.—Larry S. Wright, 800 N 7 Hwy., Apt. 1C, Harrisonville, MO 64701.

32d Inf. Rgt., HQ Co. (Triangle Hill, Korea, 1952-53)—Seeking anyone who knew of my injury.—Thomas Dodds, 3003 Shorewood Dr., Dallas, TX 75228.

MARINES

2d Tank Bn., Co. B—Seeking Col. A.J. Stewart, Ralph Oliver, Buck Rhoden, Rex Reael, Manuel Velasco, David Foss and George Bubbs.—Stephen O. Dinkins, 2402 Monett, Sherman, TX 75090.

3d Def. Bn. (Marstertown, New Zealand, 1943)—Seeking anyone who can verify my spinal injury incurred at that time but not reported at sick call.—Arthur B. Harkin, 3508 S 8th Ave., #21, Tuscon, AZ 85713.

NAVY

Navy 65 (Great Sitkin Aleutian Island, 1944)—Seeking SK1/c John S. England (Dayton, Ohio)—Charlie Davis, 2110 40th Ave. S, New Port Richey, FL 33552.

USS Whitman (DE24) (1944-45)—Seeking anyone who remembers my knee being injured when we were tying up along side another ship, esp. the corpsman who treated me in sick bay aboard this ship.—Joseph F. Saeli, 324 Willard St., Jamestown, NY 14701.

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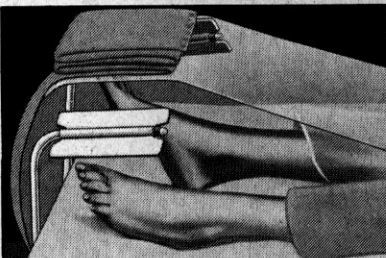
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C L A I M S

33d NCB (South Pacific, Russell Islands, Banika Island, 1943)—Seeking anyone who examined or treated me, others, esp. B.J. Dodd (Troup, Texas), Stanley E. Kosioski (West Newton, Pa.) and Dr. Ryan or Rand.—Jewel V. Knight, Rt. 1, Bokchito, OK 74726.

USS Alycone (Hebrides Islands, July 1942)—Seeking anyone to verify injury incurred while unloading 55-gal. drums, anyone else remembering me.—Holliman Parker Kingery, 5184 Houston Rd., Macon, GA 31206.

USS LST 336 (Invasion of Salerno)—Seeking Eugene R. Bombrick, Karl J. Bernstein, Francis Cassidy, Amado Cuomo, Robert L. Edwards, Samuel S. Fitzgerald, John Harasta, C.C. Murray, G.I. McNall, Manuel Taveres and Harold B. Villa.—Carl R. Fowler, 411 Fillmore, Hoquiam, WA 98550.

R E U N I O N S

All requests for reunion announcements must arrive in the VFW Magazine offices no later than six months prior to the month in which the reunion is to be held to insure timely inclusion in this column. Reunion announcement forms can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions Editor, 34th & Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111. This cost-free service to members is limited to a first-come first-published basis one time per year.

AIR FORCE (Including Army air units prior to 1947)

February

3d Comp. Sqdn. (Lawson Field, Ft. Benning)—27-March 2—N.E. Cole, 2732 Warwick Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013.

May

60th A.F. Del. (Travis AFB, 1966-67)—25-27, Webster, N.Y.—Ron Gentle, Linda Lane, Webster, NY 14580.

73d Bomb. Wing (B-29 Grps. 497, 498, 499, 500; 65th, 91st, 303d & 330 Svc. Grps.; plus attached and assigned units at Saipan: WW II)—2-5, Tucson, Ariz.—73d Bomb. Wing Assn., 105 Circle Dr., Universal City, TX 78148.

82d Troop Carrier Sqdn., 436th Troop Carrier Grp.—3-5, Chicago—R.H. Ourant, 4295 Stratton Rd., Columbus, OH 43220.

318th Ftr. Grp., 333rd, 19th & 73d Ftr. Sqdns. (Pacific Area, WW II)—16-19, Calverton, Calif.—Arthur Bowen, 984 Casa Vista Dr., Pomona, CA 91768.

454th Bomb. Sqdn., 323d Bomb. Grp. (WW II)—15-19, San Antonio, Texas—Joe Havrilla, 1208 Margaret St., Munhall, PA 15120.

Global Team Recce Blackbirds—17-19, Reno, Nev.—Blackbird Reunion Registration, General Delivery, Civilian Post Office, Beale, CA 95903.

June

1st Radio Sqdn.—22, Dayton, Ohio—Horace Moore, POB 736, Rosebud, TX 76570.

4th Ferrying Grp., ATC (WW II)—6-8, Nashville, Tenn.—T.L. Clark, 708 Lakeshore Dr., Lebanon, TN 37087.

REUNIONS

20th Ftr. Grp. Assn. (WW II)—13-16, Colorado Springs, Colo.—John Mayer, 5515 Kerth Rd., St. Louis, MO 63128.

315th Ftr. Sqdn., 324th Ftr. Grp. (WW II)—29, Wickliffe, Ohio—Eugene Orlandi, 311 3rd St., East Northport, NY 11731.

ALL BRANCHES

February

North Dakota Iwo Jima Veterans Assn.—16, Mandan, N.D.—Leo Gray, Rt. 1 Box 100-A, Hankinson, ND 58041.

March

Anzio Beachhead Veterans of WW II (Jan. 22-May 25, 1944)—21-24, Orlando, Fla.—M.E. Hohl, 2633 Loretto Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32223.

April

Solomon Island Veterans (WW II)—27-28—Murvin Jacob, 2924 E 21st St., Topeka, KS 66607.

May

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor—5-12, Albuquerque, N.M.—R.J. Dow, 6902 Prairie Rd., NE 907, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

Stalag Luft III POWs—2-4, Denver—Bob Weinberg, POB 787, Highland Park, IL 60035.

Ulithi Veterans—16-19—Dolores Butcher, 2187 S Queen St., York, PA 17402.

USS Haven (AH12)—9-11, Reno, NV—Joe Messina, 1680 Oak Vista Ave., Chico, CA 95926.

June

Iceland Veterans—23-27, Monticello, N.Y.—Dave Zinkoff, 2101 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Society of Signalmen (E-4 thru E-9, Navy & Coast Guard)—27-29, San Diego, Calif.—SOS, POB 12247, San Diego, CA 92111.

ARMY

February

42d Inf. Div.—22-23, Oklahoma City, Okla.—Al Brewer, POB 242, Mustang, OK 73064.

March

135th Ord. MM Co. (ETO, WW II)—23, Montvale, N.J.—Frank Lanzante, 76 Clinton Park Dr., Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

April

61st CC Rgt. (AA) & 634th & 635 AAA AW Bns.—25-28, Nashville, Tenn.—Bob Miller, 10924 Pleasant Acres Dr., Adelphi, MD 20783.

85th QM Depot Supply Co. (Fl. Custer, England, North Africa & Italy, WW II)—25-28, Kokomo, Ind.—Thomas Stewart, 134 W Howard, Galveston, IN 46932.

184th AAA Gun Bn. (WW II)—25-28, Nashville, Tenn.—Bob Miller, 10924 Pleasant Acres Dr., Adelphi, MD 20783.

May

2d Armored—29-June 2, Tampa, Fla.—Loren Guge, 8053 High Point Blvd., Brookville, FL 33512.

29th Inf. Div., 116th Rgt., D Co.—24-27, Salem, Va.—George Kobe, 27701 Murrieta Rd., Space 127, Sun City, CA 92381.

40th Inf. Div., HQ & HQ Co. (WW II)—17-19, Springfield, Ohio—William Hughes, 4363 5th Ave. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33711.

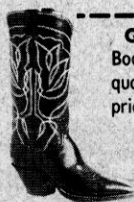
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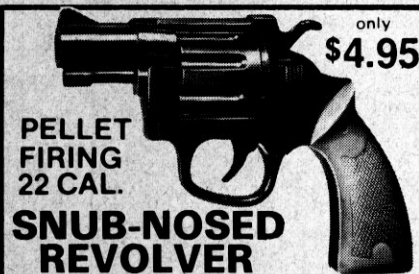


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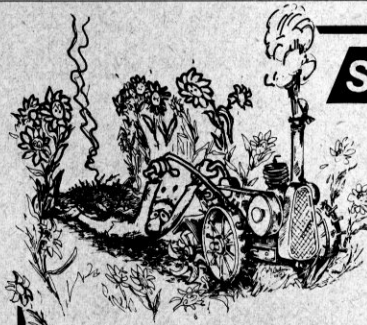
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71st Inf. Div., 5, 14th & 66th Inf. Rgts.—7,
Steyr, Austria—John Earle, 9574 Lorenzo St., La
Grange, CA 95329.

84th QM Reserve Depot—18, Sacramento,
Calif.—Richard Howard, 3132 Del Paso Blvd.,
Sacramento, CA 95815.

97th Inf. Div., 386th Inf., Co. E—Las Vegas,
Nev.—William Perkov, 5001 Buchanan St., Los
Angeles, CA 90042.

99th Inf. Bn. (Norwegian-American)—Nor-
way—E.H. Thomas, 2075 Stonebridge Lane, Char-
lotte, NC 28211.

103d Inf. Rgt., 43d Div.—18, Portland, Me.—
John McGovern, 5 Delaware Ave., South Portland,
ME 04106.

156th Inf., 31st Div. (WW II)—18, Lake Charles,
La.—Evan Janise, Rt. 1 Box 300, Ragley, LA 70657.

190th FA Bn.—18, Dubois, Pa.—R.J. Noble, 414
Knarr St., DuBois, Pa. 15801.

255th Ord. Co. (MM) (WW II)—3-5, Grand
Island, Neb.—Robert Herzog, 1736 S Authur St.,
Grand Island, NE 68801.

557th Ord. Hvy. Maint. Co. (tk) (WW II)—23-
26, Houston—Billy Felts, 4802 Oates Rd., Houston,
TX 77013.

803d TD Bn.—21-23—Gus Witt, 1009 Pano-
rama Ct., Fircrest, WA 98466.

967th FA Bn., 228th & 176th FA Rgts.—3-5,
Baltimore—Louis Persiano, 1939 Dundalk Ave.,
Baltimore, MD 21222.

□June

1st Div., 26th Inf., Co. K—13-15, Washington,
Pa.—Ed Russell, 566 Arizona Dr., Lower Burrell,
PA 15068.

17th Inf. Rgt.—15-16, Long Beach, Calif.—J.F.
Wittler, 514 Tamarack Dr., Union City, CA 94587.

28th Div., Society of—23-29, State College,
Pa.—George Stryer, POB 25, Danville, PA 17821.

45th Div., 180th & 279th Inf. Rgts., Co. C—7-
9, Tulsa, Okla.—Lee Fry, 804 N Main, Broken
Arrow, OK 74012.

50th Sig. Bn., Co. B (WW II)—Boston—Frank
Garrick, POB 224, Lindenhurst, NY 11757.

**57th Inf. (Phillipine Scouts) (Pre-war &
Bataan)**—Jim Colman, 3150 Lakeside Dr., 203,
Grand Junction, CO 81501.

79th Div., 311 FA Bn., Btry. A (WW II)—15-
16—Russell Rhodes, 325 W Ave. G, Lewistown, IL
61542.

99th Sig. Bn.—7-8, Grand Island, Neb.—Keith
Moeller, POB 175, Loup City, NE 68853.

221st Sig. Depot Co.—21-23, Washington,
D.C.—Girard Stegner, 12811 Kitchenhouse Way,
Germantown, MD 20874.

281st QM Refrig. Co. (MBL) (WW II)—14-16,
Colorado Springs, Colo.—Dean McMurphy, POB
192, Yuma, CO 80759.

351st Searchlight Bn.—8-9, Lincoln, Neb.—
Bob Johnson, 514 Brown St., Jackson, MN 56143.

532d Amphib. Rgt. & Australian 9th Div.—
14-21, Coffs Harbour, Australia—Ray Swingley,
2736 Louisiana Ave. N, Minneapolis, MN 55427.

548th AAA Bn.—28-29, Cincinnati—James Wil-
liams, 1122 Will-o-ee Dr., Amelia, OH 45102.

7700th TI&E Grp.—7-21, Germany—Jim Klein,
3122 S Everett Pl., Kennewick, WA 99337.

MARINES

□February

1st Marine Raider Bn.—15-16—1st Marine
Raider Bn. Assn., POB 980, Wahsington, D.C.
20044.

28th Marines, Co. E—21-24, San Diego,
Calif.—D.E. Severance, POB 1972, La Jolla, CA
92038.

June

11th Amph. Trac. Bn. (1944-45)—George Phillips, 1306 Maple St., Lawrenceville, IL 62439.

NAVY

April

Naval Armed Guard Veterans (WW II)—24-27, Norfolk, Va.—Leonard Carlson, 5894 N St. Albans, Shoreview, MN 55112.

USS Bunker Hill (VB-17) (WW II)—28-29, Washington, D.C.—Walton Marshall, 3593 S Leisure World Blvd., Silver Spring, MD 20906.

May

24th NCB (WW II)—2-4, Philadelphia—Hersel Dumbauld, 815 Zahn St., Huntington, IN 46750.

South China Patrol (USS Asheville, Tulsa, Sacramento, Pampanga, others)—8-11, San Jose, Calif.—J. Geyer, 1056 Bobolink Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

USS Chikaskia (AO54) (WW II)—17-19, Cape Cod, Mass.—Jack Gingrich, Sr., 3104 Tunnel Hill Rd., Lebanon, PA 17042.

USS Lexington (CV2)—15-17, Nashville, Tenn.—Walt Kastner, 466 Ivy Glen Dr., Mira Loma, CA 91752.

USS Little (DD803, DD79 & APD4)—3-5, Boston—Franklyn Whall, 53 S Fairview St., Roslindale, MA 02131.

USS LST 398 (LST Flot Five, Pacific Theatre, WW II)—17-19, Virginia Beach, Va.—Martin Mel-kind, 1908 E Front St., Traverse City, MI 49684.

USS Oklahoma—16-19, Reno, Nev.—Clarence Knight, 7831 Aberdeen Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814.

USS SC 774—16-18, Chicago—Neil Britton, 9125 Sandpiper Ct., Orland Park, IL 60462.

USS Tennessee (BB43)—15-18, Bremerton, Wash.—Ed Gossett, 2110 N Callow St., Bremerton, WA 98312.

USS Ticonderoga (CV-CVA-CVS14)—16-19, Annapolis, Md.—John Austin, 2087 Major Rd., Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852.

VPB-52—Charleston, S.C.—Saul Frishberg, 1021 Jeffrey Dr., Southampton, PA 18966.

June

157 NOB (Palermo, Sicily)—28, Erie, Pa.—William, Harrison, 2285 N Water St., Decatur, IL 62526.

3115 Cub 10—21-23, Newell, W.Va.—John Call, 1250 Sunnyside Ave., East Liverpool, OH 43920.

USS Arkab (AK130)—1-2, Philadelphia—Tom Murray, POB 525, Sun City, CA 92381.

USS Aulick (DD569)—13-16, Pittsburgh, Pa.—Robert Cleary, 107 Clubside Dr., McMurray, PA 15317.

USS Cowpens (CVL25)—19-22, Cowpens, S.C.—Raymond Baxter, 906 Palmer St., Chester, PA 19013.

USS Franklin (CV13)—14-16, Norfolk, Va.—Reon Hillegass, Jr., 1728 S Military Hwy., Chesapeake, VA 23320.

USS Hydrus (AKA28)—28-29, Amana, Iowa—Clarence Unkrich, Rt. 5 Box 105, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641.

USS LST 957—21-23, Lexington, Ky.—J.V. Littleton, 553 Hilcrest Dr., Lexington, KY 40505.

USS Remus (ARL40)(formerly LST 453) (WW II)—28-30, St. Louis—Buford Battle, POB 53, Dahlonega, GA 30553.

USS Sanders (DE40)—28-30, Wheeling, W.Va.—Tom Diserio, 1420 Walker Rd., Follansbee, WV 26037.

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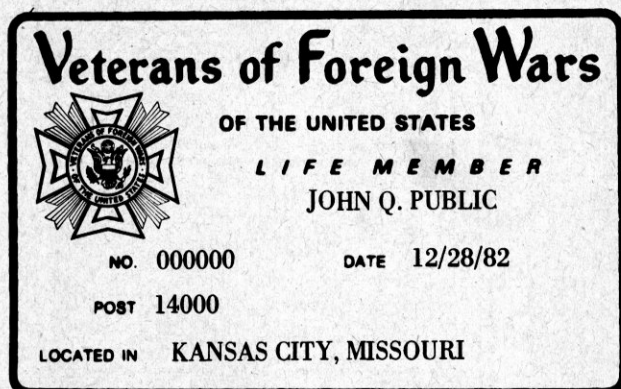
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Recruiting

continued from page 46

feel the comfort maturity brings, to enjoy the sight of their children as they sleep, or to participate in the rejuvenation of this great land of ours.

Through organizations such as the VFW, we have begun to reach out a helping hand to those who served with us and who have had difficulty in making the transition to what is considered "normal" lives.

Our numbers in the VFW—now well over 500,000—will continue to grow in the future. We have come to enjoy the comradeship of our predecessors and appreciate their support and hospitality. Even more, we have been given an opportunity to forge our destiny through unity with them and recognize the experience they afford us will certainly have a positive effect on the quality of our lives.

One day it will be the Vietnam veterans who are the elders of the organization. Therefore, it is imperative that we increase our involvement now, so that we may offer the same guidance and support we have received, and continue the legacy of those who have gone before us. The time is right to do this important work; our former comrades are out there waiting for us to come to them, just as we waited—if even unconsciously—for those who came to us. We must do all that we can to increase our numbers and involvement in the VFW, because more than ever, the time is right.

Vietnam veterans recognize that a misinformed minority who proclaim that ours was "the first generation to lose a war for this country" are as much a minority as are those of our ranks who became militant. It would be nothing short of a disaster to miss this opportunity to recruit these men and women who once served beside us.

About the Author

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Charles F. Newcomb has published one book and several articles on that war. He was wounded at Hue during the 1968 Tet offensive.



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| _____ | Armed Forces Reserve |
| _____ | (Specify Branch) _____ |
| _____ | Army Commendation |
| _____ | Army Good Conduct |
| _____ | Asiatic-Pacific Campaign |
| _____ | Bronze Star |
| _____ | China Service (N, M/C, C/G) |
| _____ | Coast Guard Good Conduct |
| _____ | Distinguished Flying Cross |
| _____ | European-African-M.E. Campaign |
| _____ | Korean Service |
| _____ | Marine Good Conduct |
| _____ | Navy Commendation |
| _____ | Navy Good Conduct |
| _____ | Navy & Marine Corps Medal |
| _____ | Navy Reserve Medal |
| _____ | National Defense Service |
| _____ | Organized M/C Reserve |
| _____ | Philippine Liberation |
| _____ | Purple Heart |
| _____ | Rep. Vietnam Cpgn/Year Bar |
| _____ | Silver Star |
| _____ | United Nations Service |
| _____ | Vietnam Service |
| _____ | World War II Occupation |
| _____ | (Specify Branch) _____ |
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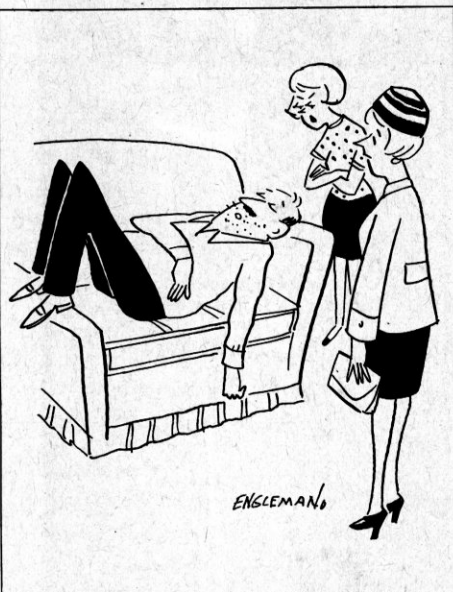
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Building

Two good old boys drove up outside a lumber yard in their pickup. One went inside and said, "I want some 4 by 2s."

The clerk said, "You mean 2 by 4s, don't you?"

The good old boy said, "Wait a minute," went out to the truck and then came back and said, "You're right, 2 by 4s."

The clerk said, "How long do you want them?"

The good old boy said, "Wait a minute" and went outside to talk to his buddy again. He came back and said, "We want them for a long time. We're building a garage."

—Blackie Sherrod

There are four main bones in every organization:

The Wish-bones: Wishing somebody would do something about the problem.

The Jaw-bones: Doing all the talking but very little else.

The Knuckle-bones: Those who knock everything.

The Back-bones: Those who carry the brunt of the load and do most of the work.

—Don Kite

Long Way

The rancher was driving an Easterner over an arid and barren section of western Texas. The sun was blistering hot. Suddenly a gaudy looking bird ran in front of the car. The Easterner seemed quite interested, and inquired about it.

"That is a Bird of Paradise," said the rancher.

The next mile was driven in silence, which was suddenly broken by the visitor with:

"Pretty long way from home, isn't it?"

—Quote

If you can read the handwriting on the wall, it probably means you're an archeologist, a cryptographer or a washroom attendant.

—Franklin P. Jones

Comments on Business...

"Mine's going down the drain," said a plumber.

"Mine's going up in smoke," said a cigar-maker.

"Lousy," said a representative from an exterminating company.

"Ours is picking up!" said the head of a trash disposal company.

"Mine is shot!" said a fireworks manufacturer.

"Couldn't be wurst!" replied a butcher.

"It stinks!" said a stable-cleaner.

"Mine is looking up!" said an astronomer.

"I'll be lucky to make any net profit this year," said the fisherman.

"Mine is sew-sew," said a tailor.

"Mine is growing," said a farmer.

—Martin Buxbaum



"It is now 12 o'clock. Do you know where your parents are?"



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